NEWS IN BRIEF

Strike stops System X

DEVELOPMENT work on the Post Office's System X digital telephone network ground to a total halt last week as members of the Society of Civil and Public Servants stopped project operations at Derby - the main System X centre.

This action could increase the pressure on the Post Office to inect union pay and parity demands as action at Harmondsworth, another System X centre, continues. The Post Office's main engineering supplies depot in Scotland has been shut down by SCPS action too.

War games . . .

COMPUTER models of Army operations involving the Royal Corps of Transport, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers are developed by Easams, part of the GEC. Marconi group. Easams will also develop a stylised war model for use by military officers in testing logistics plans.

Green light

A COMPUTER controlled traffic system valued at £1 million, that was delayed by the liquidation of the firm supplying closed circult television equipment (CW) February 22), is now operating in Leeds and parts of Bradford. The rest of the order is now out to tender again.

Training grants

THE Engineering Industry Training Board has introduced a programme for training engineering workers in computers and microelectronics. Grants of up to £70 a Worker a week are available for approved training COUTSES.

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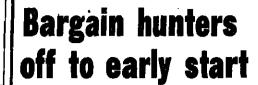
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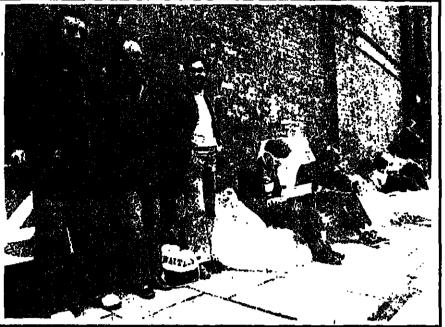
HOPING to pick up four computers for less than £300, Roger and Gary Cobb from Portsmouth (on the left of our picture) queued for two nights at Electronic Brokers' once-a-year sale in Pancras Road, London, last weekend. Their objective: secondhend Digital Equipment PDP-Bs selling at bargain prices from £25

continues until next Saturday, May 28, is Electronic Brokers' only contact with the general public. The firm normally deals only with industrial and commercial

at £10, Hazeltine 200 VDUs at £250 and Teletypes at £195. Managing director Peter Fraiman expected the warehouse-full of stock to be completely cleared

within the week.

Roger and Gary, who work for Marconi Space and Defence and Southern Microwave respectively, plan to use their purchases to pursue extension of their professional work in their spare time. They were also



Greece signs up with seven UK software firms

THE British troiks of the Computing Services Association in harness with the Department of Industry and the Central Computer Agency has scored its first success in selling the skills of the UK software and services industry to a foreign government.

The government is that of Greece, whose Finance Munistry has signed contracts worth over £450,000 with seven British companies for consultancy and software design.

CSA director general Alan Benjamin confirmed to Computer Weekly that the contracts were the first success so far for the new policy, and described the help given by the Dol and the CCA as "very very helpful." He was confident that the change of government would make no difference to the approach or to Dol support.

Other countries identified as prospects for the troika are Sudan, Zambia, and Bahrain, but the other country where a concerted effort has aiready

disappointingly slow.
"The Minister we have been talking with has just been changed, so it is going to take longer than we had hoped. But having made extensive contacts there we are not going to give up. We are now tackling the private sector, and are not having to start from scratch,

representatives. Mexico will take time, but we will succeed,'

With limited resources, the government level. CSA cannot tackle every likely prospect simultaneously, but once the second round of contracts is signed in Greece, the troika will move on to the next prospect. CSA members inter-

cover the cost of the pro-gramme, while Dol and CCA endorsement are particularly valuable when dealing at

The CSA members involved in Greece are Pactel, Price Waterhouse, Software Sciences, Dataskil, Scicon, BIS Applied Systems and Altergo.

The Finance Ministry is because many of the banks are ested in participating contribute seeking to upgrade its computer a small amount of money to systems on a broad front.

WP text conversion simplified

CONVERSION of text from one word processing medium to another, often a problem when introducing static memories, and it has no new equipment, is made easier by an ancillary system introduced by UDS.

Called the CX Co-ordinator, it consists of a box with two microprocessors and twin floppy discs that can be interfaced to a range of peripherals such as paper tape reader/pynches, OCR machines, and com-

munication links.

display model. Software for each different medium and data format is loaded into the Coordinator from floppy disc. The Co-ordinator is operated from an ordinary VDU.

Printers can also be connected Documents from various to the Co-ordinator and this ennedia can be converted to ables a printer to be shared betloppy discs for use on the ween several keystations, often UDS/Ricoh C Text word pro- an economical scheme because cessor, which is a single-line printing is faster than keying.

GEC lifts threat to strikers

A THREAT by GEC management to suspend striking deve- gineers are involved in the dislopment engineers not working normally by the beginning of this week at two Coventry cal workers and a specific restworks (CW, May 17), has been ructuring of the development lifted pending further talks bet- engineer grading system. ween the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial

affecting System X development work has been suspended for a month while the new talks proceed, but there has been a union incorporated in a new grading warning that action will resume structure, have been suspended reached within that time."

are also ASTMS members.

About 450 development enpute which relates to a general

In a separate dispute, about 60 Strike action, which was who were striking for the implementation of a 5% Central Arbitration Council award, which the company says was f "no fruitful conclusions are for not working properly. They



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Thursday, May 31, 1979

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IBM plan for

APRIVATE viewdata system is believed to be under develop-

ment at IBM which would com-

pete with the offerings from companies like GEC, Philips and Thorn (CW, April 26). The com-

pany will say nothing about it and it is uncertain which com-

puter is being used; the most suitable would be the new 8100

Information Processing System,

but Series I is also a possibility.

Meanwhile, prototypes of "in-telligent" TV sets incorporating an intel 8085 or Motorola 6800

microcomputer are under test at

GEC, and the company hopes to

viewdata-compatible colour TV

with 48K byte microcomputer

and keyboard costing about 1700 could be enhanced with

storage and hard-copy penpherals for another £1,500 or

Apple prices down

APPLE Computers in the US has

the price of memory com-

byte RAM increment comes

down to \$160, nearly halving the

3,000 more places

viewdata

A RANGE of add-on memor systems for IIIM mainframes to be introduced by Mestek even though the exist pliers have been s ezed recently by IBM's 30% ı in its own add-on memor price is \$50,000 per Megabyte.

Mostek to

add-ons

MALLE

Mostek will be marketing the systems specifically at the UEM market, rather than end uses So pricing details are not available. They are unlikely how ever, to be much different from those charged by another conpany in the market, Intel. This markets to the end user at \$50,000 per Megabyte.

The Mostek range consists of four systems aimed at different models in the IBM range, Mod-831 is intended for the IBM 303 system, and offers a maximum of 8-Mbytes, Models 832, 833 and 868, for the 3032, 3033 and 379 168 mainframes respectively ench offer up to 16M byte

All four make use of 16K by dynamic random access memories produced by Moster which the company claim should give i an advantageout its main competitor in the on market, Intersil. Alth. a semiconductor manulaturer, Intersil is expected to hat to purchase 16K chips on the open market.

Intel's system uses 4K bit plans to move to 16K dynamics.

FUNDING of £11 million is ^{leing} provided by the Man-

Available NOW LA 34 DECwriter IV ENGINEER Syn. 30cps desktop printer Power Services Commission for a three-year programme to es-tabash 2,500 to 3,000 new computer training places at colleges and polys, and under the TOPS and Threshold schemes. Three new types of courses will be offered: Initial Programming. Real Time Programming, and

US firm for Eire

UNCONFIRMED reports indicate that a leading US com-puter peripherals manufacturer is to set up a factory in Ireland, under the auspices of the Irish elopment Authority. The ADA says that it is talking to any US companies "and

method

oceasing integrated circuit afers that could lead to even wer device costs through ed manufacturing and pital equipment costs, has ten developed by Motorola. ssist (PDP) it eliminates the wet processing stages in the wet processing stages in manufacture, which include the of designised water, serioleum-based solvents, and faids, as well as reducing potential environmental hazards.

ast chips wanted

JAIME GORMAN, at 11 one of Britain's

CW sponsors junior chess champion

leading junior chess players, is to be sponsored by Computer Weekly.

Although he has been playing chess for only two years, Jajme has alroady schieved several successes in the chess world, including winning the Under-10 North London Championship, coming second in the Under-12 section of the Evening Standard All-England Tournament, and being named last year as Player of Moat Outstanding Promise at the Southern Counties Championship.

Chris Hipwell, editorial director of

the 2903 is on the way from ICL.

and the company is also laying

plans for a chain of shops to sell

business systems. The company

has just announced a new 2982

easy-to-use subset of IDMS for

The new 2903 processor will

almost certainly be a bit-slice

microprocessor emulation of the

existing 1973 vintage processor,

but it is not known which chip

ICL is using.
Plans for shops are still

embryonic, but space suitable

At present the 1500 is the only

suitable product, possibly in-

dropped the prices of its 32K processor to match the 303X,

byte and 48K byte systems fol-lowing the continued decline in range machines and a low-cost,

Nonents. The price of the 32K 190X users, ICL has answers

system is now \$1,345, while the across the board for all IBM's

15K is \$1,495. In addition a 16K most recent announcements.

Computer Weekly, referred to Jaime as a "young player with great potential," and said that Computer Weekly's support would anable him to have regular coaching, as well as looking after entry fees for tournaments and travelling ex-

Computer Weekly's interest in chess reflects the growing developments in programming computers to play chees, but as Hipwell added, "We do not lose sight of the human aspects of the game, and with a record as impressive as Jaime's we felt he deserved some encou

across the board

However, UK sales director

Dr Peter Aylett believes that a

completely new product costing

about £5,000 will probably be

needed; a minimum configura-

tion stand-alone 1500 costs

The IDMS subset for 200X

users is called IDMS-E, and is

ICL's answer to the IBM System

38 database machine, IDMS is

already available on 290X, but

has few users because it is too

complex for the typical 290X

The new 2982 replaces the

customer.

about £10,000 with some soft-

ICL challenges IBM



ages, which comprise IDMS-E, a

subset of the new ICL Data Dic-

the 2900 Range Cobol, mirror

IBM's Installation Productivity

Option packages of software.

However unlike IBM, they do

tem, and are cheaper than the

There was a low level of

closing price, which showed

a fall of 8p.

Discounts offer on Series

QUANTITY discounts on IBM Series I minicomputers came into effect in the UK last week. as anticipated following the US announcement (CW, March 18). The same rates apply as in the US, 5% on an order for between 50 and 99 machines, 10% up to 149, and 15% thereafter. No discount is offered on a puchase of ess than 50 processors.

The discounts, which apply to products installed in an 18 month period, also cover devices specific to Series 1 and purchased licensed program products.

Software for the Series 1 has been evolving rapidly and now constitutes a sophisticated and comprehensive offering. A transaction processing system was launched earlier this year and is to be joined this month by other major new facilities. De-

DEC Pascal

NATIVE mode Pascal com piler for the Vax-11/780 is to be released by Digital Equipment Corp by the end of the year, It is being developed by DEC in conjunction with Washington University at Seattle and is said to e intended for both educational and industrial use.

An early user will be the University of Adelaide, Australia. which has ordered three Vax machines partly because of the availability of the compiler.

Although Pascal compilers have been developed for nearly minicomputers, few manufacturers have yet committed themselves to the langu-

Consolation in company half-year figures

Access Controllers and main tionary System, Minimac and

upgrade, 2972 to 2976 is a field- not include the operating sys-

upgrade. tem, and are cheaper than the aggregate cost of the items

2980 and is developed from the 2972-76 Order Code Processor. It COMING at a time when several for a retail outlet is one criterion is the first ICL 2900 to incorpobig companies have disap- activity on the Stock Exchange for choosing new ICL office rate a cache memory, 16K-bytes, pointed the City with results on Tuesday, after the holiday accommodation, and the first and takes up to 16 Megabytes of one could open within 12 main memory. A single proces-months, probably in Manch- sor 2982 matches the 3032, and a substantially below forecast, weekend; the immediate reac-ICL's half-year figures will come tion to ICL's interim figures was as some consolation. However a rise of 13p to 466p. dual processor the 3033. profits were below target as a This followed Friday's result of labour troubles in

February and March.

On Tuesday the company

reported half-year pre-tax pro-fits of £18.6 million, over 17% up

on the figure for 6 months to

March 1978, on turnover up 23%

at £285.1 million. ICL traditionally does more of its business in

the second half so the company is set for full year profits of over

£40 million on turnover of £610

The company reported orders

up by 30% over the same period

last year, a good performance in

by recent IBM announcements.

An interim dividend of 3.5 pence

per share has been declared: this

is 22% more than the interim

The 2976 cun now also have up to 16 Megabytes, and the 2972 12

cluding the 1500 series text pro-cessing suite which is not yet A new 2960, called the 2960/10

This will extend the memory

printer, video display, and could

function as a teletext or view-

Language translator to be basis of personal computer

A HAND-HELD language entered an agreement with translator, being introduced into Matsushita Electric of Japan to the UK by Cherry Leisure next develop the unit into a personal ear, will form the basis of a computer system. nand-held personal computer.

Retailing for £139.95, it is capsule idea to work with a wide claimed to provide English variety of memory components. Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and romanised Japanese. The programs for these are held in ROM, mounted in special memory The developers, California-

based Friends/Amis has now

soli-off study

for the Irish government by Arthur D. Little and American as invited bids for 18 milon fast 16K memory chips from
the US semiconductor industry.
It is believed to want the chips
the forthcoming to private the decommunications operations of the Republic's Post Office.
There is a serious backlog of the forthcoming to private the communications operations of the Republic's Post Office.
There is a serious backlog of the reliable difficulties to firm Telephone and Telegraph on. rite forthcoming top-end Erites machines and the first
startes machines. IBM's own munciations. One firm men
the first wishing to use computer comwishing to

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S CW.....

AT THE NCC . . . This special international adition of

This special international adition of Computer Weekly will be distributed at the National Computer Conference in New York. Heath Wiener previews the conference programme and provides a round-up of the American scene. Fred Lamond looks at the development of the PABX misrket in Europe. Tim Patmer reports on the growth of computer operations in Eastern Europe. and there is also the usual yield obverage of news from around the world.

ALSO . . .

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Computerview on service of the century
Focus on the NCC
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come running, but engineering

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days, hocking the family silver was frowned upon, it was a sin to sell off the ancestral acres. And stately homes were preserved at all costs. Noel Coward even wrote a song about it.

The principle was clear: family assets accumulated over many years should not be dissipated by a single generation. Or to put it in terms which many people still adhere to today, "You mustn't break into capital." How ironic it is, then, to see Sir

Geoffrey Howe, a leading member of the party which represents stability, probity and a return to traditional values, poised to sell off national assets on a massive scale. And that, in a nutshell, means government holdings in a wide range of industrial and commercial enterrises, at present vested in the National Enterprise Board.

The reasons for such a move are clear. Redeeming the pronises made by the Conservative Party in the run-up to the elecion will be an expensive business. Wage settlements with the police and the armed services have already added substantially to the national wage bill but even more pressing is the necessity to find the money to bring down the basic rate of income tax. And Sir Geoffrey must be in a position to say where that money is coming from when he presents his first

The sell-out century

about such government hol- be regarded as national assets. dings, and that the Labour adits share in Ferranti.

under any circumstances, be allowed to sell or vary its holdings in industry. Some flexibility must be retained, if tween Data Recording Instrument and CDC to go ahead.

tween selling shares in a company in which the government has a majority interest, as it in fact still does in BP and Ferranti. and on the other hand, organ-

It will be argued, of course, ising the wholesale disposal of that there is nothing sacrosanct shares in companies which may

And the morality, not to say stration in any case sold off wisdom, of selling sizeable 17% of its share in BP and 12% of chunks of companies where the government has a substantial That is, indeed, true, and it would be ridiculous to say that 24.4%, Ferranti 50.5%, Data no government should ever, Recording Instrument Co 53.9% and Case 28% is open to ques-

Those companies have been built up — to a very comfortable only to enable ventures such as level of profitability in the case the proposed joint project be- of both ICL and Ferranti - with the aid of the taxpayers' money. And it is strange, to say the least, that we should now be contemplating selling what in effect amount to national assets, on the open market.

One might ask where the potential investors in these

gone into these companies? COMPUTER WEEKING Moreover, what would the

government's attitude be to bids for their holdings in these companies from foreign organisa-tions, particularly when the military significance of much of Ferranti's computing work is remembered and when ICL's contribution to the balance of trade in computer products is taken into consideration? But perhaps even more

companies were when money was so sorely needed a few years

ago? And why should such in-

vestors now reap the benefit of

the public investment which has

important than these issues is the question of stability and continuity. The high risks and costs associated with the development of computer systems and products have deterred rather than attracted investors. In this situation government support has provided a muchneeded stabilising factor, parti-cularly for smaller firms, and indeed even for ICL at the time when the high costs of developing the 2900 series were being

To remove this stabilising factor, leaving high technology companies to the mercy of the market forces which are supposed to exert such a healthy and invigorating influence on the economy, will be to jeopardise the very existence of the British computer industry when other countries are stimulating

and supporting theirs. It would be an easy and doctrinally attractive solution to Sir Geoffrey Howe's money proto cut spending on Insac, Inmos data entry systems vid and other government ventures replace Linotype Paul MY in the computer field. To do so tape equipment. Over the would be a great mistake. The would be a great mistake. The national press would probably and rates, and mortgagest hall it as "The Sale of the Cenhandled by the Rates" tury". Others might see it as the have 16 Mbytes of discus.

Pericom

MAY 29, 1969

To provide London polyndrate for software, CAP-CPP is conwith more computing pent centrating on this sector of the
several 1900 machines were market.

be installed under a fifting to the installed one was sure of the itm to the system presently consists of would take. tools, at present unrefined, de-

A FULL-SCALE five-day in ference and exhibition on the mation Technology is plus for Monte Carlo in November 1980. Called IT80, it will took the broad spectrum of un grated voice, data and imp systems, and is claimed to be first major event of habit There is room for up to B stands, and the UK Post 05 has aiready booked three!

Executive Conference Org. isers are running the evel of Information Studies Ltd. [3] handling the conference

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and are valued at £10400

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Ten Viewdata learning years ago... System from CAP

viewdata standard is finally material for running either on a adopted internationally, there will be a large worldwide market central viewdata computer or, more likely on an in-house viewdata system or "intelligent

Following the change of government there is some uncertainty over whether additional Dol funding will be available to refine the system further. CAP is hopeful, but is also demonstrating the system direct to industry.

The system at present consists of the tools to put together a course, and sample course material. Three courses are currently in preparation: an introduction to Microelectronics, an introductory software course, and first steps in programming.

While viewdata will be an appropriate medium for delivering material to the intelligent TV, it will also be possible to distribute it on floppy discs, cassettes, or any medium used by the TV games industry.

With the enormous need for retraining expected in industry over the next decade CAP expects a ready market for Telesoftware Training, which has the advantages that it is intrinsically entertaining, cheap and uses a familiar device, namely the TV set. Limitations are the low capacity of the TV screen and slow communica-

alone in manufacturing

FACED with increasing international hostility towards its in-ternal policies, South Africa is computer equipment, according to informed industry sources in

signed to enable non-specialists

Plane of own

is answer

FOR the businessman who

needs to be in several plaços, i

set at the same time, at least a

wickly as possible, an aero

For those who went to see

the latest aircraft the Sixth

Business and Light Aviation Show, presented by Flight in

ternational, is a must. It is being staged at Cranfield, Bedford-shire, from September 6 to 8.

Information about the show

can be had from lifte Promo-tions Ltd, Dorset House, Starn-

ford Street, London SE1 SLU. Tel: 01-261 8437.

Top-level discussions between local computer suppliers nd senior government officials in Pretoria suggest that con-

The government is said to be keen to establish independent internal sources of supply following reappraisal of its relations with the West in general and the US in particular.

it is pointed out that any mait is pointed out that any major break in the supply line from the US would seriously disrupt local computer industry activity which is currently growing at about 35% a year.

THE bid by Fairchild Industries to buy the 79.4% of Bunker to

c 1985 Bath Arden IBM's chief in

Swanepoel, technical director of Data Corp, which pioneered preparing to go it alone in the manufacture of computers and local manufacturing on a small scale. The biggest inhibiting factor, he said, was the cost of local production for a relatively limited market.

Local equipment, it is believed, would be up to 20% more expensive than comparable tingency plans for manufac-turing in South Africa have a be necessary to erect a tariff barrier. foreign equipment and it would However, many South African

suppliers and users believe this would be a small price to pay for

Bunker Ramo

though John Starkey, Ramo, which it does not already thaging director of ICL in own, may be resisted. The aerospace company launched above 21%.

moth Africa, also admits that company has been investing the feasibility of local mulacture but save he has a subsect of the company has been investing the feasibility of local mulacture but save he has a subsect of business — it includes comcture but says he has, as puter terminals, electronic comnot been involved in discusponents and carpets — would ponents and carpets — with a that South Africa has the company whose profits are heavily dependent on manufacturing heavily dependent on manufacture of one military aircraft.



market chief pany has already expressed in

THE US Federal Communications Commission is monopoly services.

munication Service has been the subject of a sent in by July 16.

unfair competition by cross-subsidy from its vative new services."

proposing that any company should be free to

terest in such a system for

CAP's Telesoftware is an ex-

division's MicroCobol, which i

portable across a wide range o

mini and microcomputers. It is

currently available on IBM's

Series I, DEC's PDP-11, the

Zilog Z80, Intel 8080, the Texas

TMS 9900, and the Motorola

the US public telephone network.

raining 6,000 repairmen.

TWO years after joining Cray Research from IBM, and subse-quently becoming managing director of the UK subsidiary, Peter Appleton-Jones is movir from Bracknell to Minneapo to take up the post of vice-president for marketing at Cray Research inc. His best will be the Cray

Ex-IBM man

to be Cray

world, which presently takes in the US, Canada, France, West Germany, Japan and the UK, and he will additionally be responsible for customer en and software development.

regulatory battle because of doubt as to whether it An AT&T statement from vice-president for

was a data processing service, which it is not planning William Sharwell said: "The discussion

But AT&T would have to provide the service committed to encouraging broad competition in

Wanted: Irish DP staff for jobs in Eire

of skilled technical staff, partiskills to return from abroad.

An improved resettlement scheme with grants towards will accompany an advertising campaign and a series of inter In addition to systems ana-

lysts, other skills listed as in short supply include electronic and mechanical engineers, and

Interviews are being concularly systems analysts, the duced by the Irish National Irish Ministry of Labour is Manpower Services in the major launching a campaign to entice cities of Britain throughout expatriates with appropriate. June, and are not being contined to Irish people

The need for these people is being intensified by the work of house purchase and travel costs | Irish Development Authority which is trying frontcally to alleviate unemployment in the Republic by encouraging foreign manufacturers to set up

There are large numbers of well educated but inexperienced staff who need opportunities to FCC wants more comms competition fore this can be done, factories eed to be set up with adequate numbers of experienced staff. The FCC proposals affect three categories of

The IDA pays the salaries of offer computerised communications services on service: voice, basic non-voice and enhanced trainees who are exporting their non-voice, and it expects to announce a firm products, and in addition, ex-This would include the dominant telephone policy by the end of the year when it has had time ports are entirely free of tax company AT&T, whose proposed Advanced Com- to evaluate the public comments it has asked to be until 1990. These benefits are confined to exports in order not

Several UK software houses. at the FCC confirmed that the Commission is such as Altergo and Zous-Hermes, have set up shop in Eire through a separate subsidiary company to prevent data communications and to promoting inno-solely because of the tax and

isn't everything

At Datasolve APL is one approach to successful modelling. Not the whole approach. Not the only

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a service-based modelling environment... Accessible on-line from a far-flung network at major centres in the UK and Holland giving local access.

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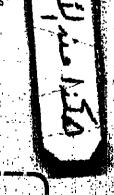
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early June.

DIGITAL MICROSYSTEMS DSC-2
LOVY COST COMPUTER SYSTEM INCORPORATES:

† ONE MEGASYTE of froppy dut manage on new shiple sides 8" drives — standard.

SYLES of history standard. — 3.2% and 40% also in stable.

OF the Disk operate for the PET PROCESSING ARSIE COSOL FRORMAN synthols.

EAPANDABLE. And on Hard Data System. — Uping 25 Magastress per define.

MODATA SHELDCHARD FOR ORALENS & ORTHODOLOGS.

shores. The call of the West is allowing for time lag compensastridently summoning all parties tion — would have troubled to the annual United States DP amboree - the National Com- computer management. Just who is manning the UK puter Conference held this year

Call of the West

with some dire calamity. executive, vice-president, enof being absent from the four- too frequently takes second

Being featured this year is a Personal Computing Festival, chairman of the NCC Conwhich is guaranteed to draw ference is an IBM executive. For even greater crowds, though much of the computing world, whether a special "Big Apple" is computing is represented by to be announced, is unknown. IBM. What the company does this year, the rest will follow as There will, however, be

buying distance from the large and Europe to accept the facts of us remaining at our UK work ney-Contestants are guaranteed Exhibition and Conference." stations, could well be faced a rough and wet ride with no with problems. A certain distance will develop between the sales team and the DP installa-ICL, with more than a little help

ACCOUNTING STUDY into the practical

THERE can be few in the DP routes which tend to get mislaid industry who are unaware that midway between California and some momentous event is currently happening beyond our California, Feedback — even microelectronics enterprise,

n New York. shop is the key question, es-No self-respecting sales pecially for the installation faced

Customer responsibility all day session — aithough only a place to the requirement to put few are likely to get the oppor-tunity to attend.

on good show at the premier exhibition or showcase.

Almost inevitably, the soon as possible.

for casting doubt on the exploits Inmos. Many experts have already concluded that the project will be too little and too late.

The UK does, however, have a strong role in the international world of DP. By providing ex-pertise and establishing skills in such areas as software, consultancy, telecomms, training and education, we have an unparalleled reputation. Only recently, the CSA announced important UK contracts for software services in Greece and Spain. While such systems houses as Langton Information are spreading WP and viewdata messages across

Europe, others are developing The UK could even be aiming sents in London "The Third In-DP life. Challening IBM is not-ably more difficult than surf-puting, Word Processing and

tion. Lack of response can be from the government. Even so, problems of computerised their \$1bn turnover puts them in accounting is being undertaken the micro league compared to by accountants Pepper, Rudland the computer revenue of IBM at and Company, which has \$22bn. The price of keeping up in the DP technology race is high.

bought a 64K Digico M16E protection of the DP technology race is high.

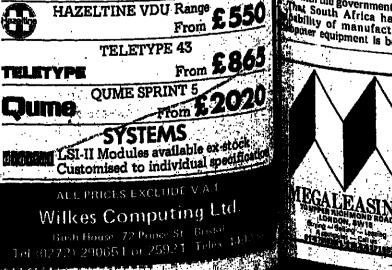
THIS week's example of the strange things people say in the media about computers was sent in by W. M. Gordon, of Edinburgh Regional Computing Centre, who wins £5.

corrien Police Pederation secretary Joe Black seld it had been found that

1984 and all that...

The health of the police officer is being put at risk by some of the sophisticated equipment being introduced into force communication centres. Experts have found that using visual display units can, over a period, cause see damage to the operators — and even lead to nervous breakdowns.

operators using these units often ended up with "bottle bottom glasses and grey help."



Getting it all together, somehow

JIGSAW puzzle fans will be back into a readable stage. interested in this story. It seems that at a bank in Texas, following — you guessed it — a "computer error," 200,000 cheques and deposit slips were inadvertently fed into a shredder. Faced with a prospect of years of wrangling and litigation, not to say embarrassment, the bank decided on the well-tried American hammer-andtongs approach, hired 45 ex-

paper back together again.
It took a round-the-clock tape into a shredder. (it was terribly confidential informaoperation, but by the time they had finished, all but 400 tion.) Try sticking that back together with Selfotane! of the items had been stuck

COMPUTER WAR

Instant underdraft

cartoon the other day

showing two people looking at a fruit machine. One says

to the other, "It's the latest

model. It credits your win-

rungs straight into your bank

What a great idea! Of

course, it would probably

want to debit your losses as

well, which doesn't sound so

WRITTEN ENTIRELY IN COBOL

UNS UNDER ETS/MTS

THE Wall Street Journal had attractive. But then why not

shift the gambling mechan-

ism into the bank's computer,

so the whole thing becomes

one super-efficient opera-tion? If you felt like it, you

could look at your bank

see how you stood. If you're

going to throw money away

you might as well do it as painfully as possible.

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ACCEPTS USER MODULES IN COBOL AND/OR PLAN

account from time to time to

GAMES

tra temporary staff, and got

them to stick all the pieces of

The cross-eyed staff then got taken to a funfair for the day

"Now wait a minute," I

System X network. hear you cry. What on earth In addition to the 800 connecis the point of a shredder if tion local exchange due to be the nasty snoopers and inbrought into service in Wooddustrial spies can just stick the pieces back together bridge, Suffolk, in December 1980 and the tandem exchange scheduled for London in early again? It sounds a bit like chaining a bicycle to a par-1981, a digital main network king meter — all the thief has switching centre, DMNSC, two to do is lift it over the top. more local exchanges and a local I remember having great administration centre are planfun feeding reels of punched

ned during 1981. Another two tandems, three DMNSCs and four local exchanges are planned for 1982 and 1983. Four of the installations are to be in London, three in the Cambridge area and the other seven are still being de-

Production of a working System X exchange has been brought forward, so that the Post Office has had one working since last month in preparation for demonstration on the British stand at Telecom 79, Geneva, in

Another schedule that the Post Office has brought forward is the removal of Strowger exchanges, and the last one is now

Post Office chairman Sir export System X

PO to test 15 System X installations

FIFTEEN System X exchanges have now been scheduled for with the US where, he says, they test installation by the Post Office, and a new digital PABX telephone system before the for 20 exchange lines and 120 extensions, the CDSSI, is being year 2000. This is in spite of the fact that they already have 29% evaluated for use as a local exof their connections on elecchange in remote parts of the tronic exchanges, compared with 5% in the UK, and only 26%

compared with the UK's 89%. the gap at the small end of the exchange programme, so the new Post Office designed CDSSI, now re-christened the Monarch 120, is on trial in Cambridge and in Scotland. More than 2,000 exchanges in

the UK have fewer than 400 connections, and small exchanges suitable for rural areas are also important to the export With the whole of the System

X programme the Post Office is expecting exports to bring reduced costs from increased production quantities. Its current rate of expenditure on new equipment is £250 million a year and this will remain steady at 1979 values until all existing equipment is replaced.

The whole of this amount will be on System X once installation starts, and at least as much is expected to be earned in export orders through British Telecommunications, the recently renamed company formed to

WP under fire at Infotech conference

THE importance of word pro-cessing as a functional part of a minimal effect. For example, in Chris Ellis, manager of business strategy for Nexos Office Systems, at the Infotech conference, "Microelectronics in data processing, the next five

He said there was some confusion caused by the common use of the phrase "office systems" to describe word processing equipment, which he said were little more than sophisti-

outlined was that word proces- gains could easily be lost. sing functions were the necessary first building blocks centre much more on improving for an office system, while in the productivity of a company's fact the distribution and retrie- managers and professionals val of text would be of more rather than its secretarial staff. value than more efficient typing. Otherwise offices will become

automated office systems came most companies, secretarial in for some statistical attack last staff accounted for less than 10% week during the presentation by of costs, and typing for only 25%

Quoting a typical office situa-tion where there were five secretary/typist, with the former paid an average of twice as much as the latter, Ellis said that a 30% improvement in secretarial productivity would mean a saving of only 3% in

If greater secretarial efficiency also meant less actual The typical view of the secretarial support for the

Office systems, he said, must In fact, he said, the produc- optimised around the secretaries tivity gains that could be made rather than the decision-makers.

ADDS with 39% of its \$46.9 mil-

ADDS has begun to diversify

WHEN Applied Digital Data
WHEN Applied Digital Data
Customs finally conceded defeat
ADDS claims to be the largest

in the bitter battle with Racal for independent manufacturer of

control of Milgo Corp, it came display terminals in the world,

out of the fray with a windfall of some \$19 million net, paid by Racal for the 48% of Milgo still dominated by one enormous

shares which accepted the customer, NCR, which provided

Some of it has been spent on lion business in the year to

buying up some of its own November 30, 1978. The 1978

shares, including a major turnover was up 41% over 1977, transaction in which it bought out the interest that its most business stayed the same.

important customer, NCR, held Over the past couple of years,

Some has been invested in a into a second major business,

country from its Hauppauge.
New York headquarters, at Salt the System 75, an enhanced ver-

Lake City, Utah. More is to be sion of the Intel 8080-based Sys-

invested in building up ADDS' tem 70. The products consist of

business in Europe, but the display and keyboard, processor company is still sitting on an with 52K-bytes of user memory, enormous pile of cash \$14.1. and up to three floppy disc

major new plant across the microcomputer systems.

EMI scanners pick up again BUSINESS at EMI Medical, Austria, West Germany, Spi. which has been feeling the keen Abu Dhabi and the UK.

which has been feeling the keen breeze of competition from US and other scanner manufacturers, looks to be picking up, with 10 orders for scanners placed in April.

Three Italian hospitals, at Lecce, Bologna, and Genoa, will receive two CT 1010 specialist receive two CT 1010 specialist.

Lecce, Bologna, and Genoa, will receive two CT 1010 specialist head scanners and a 7020 high resolution scanner, together worth about £800,000. They are due to be delivered in mid-1979. Scanners are also going to second scan time.

from CAP Microsoft of the UK.

are now installed, sold mainly

through dealers, and ADDS has

been commissioning software

houses and dealers to write

software packages. The parent

company insists on a high

standard of documentation, and

all dealers must be approved by

General dealers sell systems

packaged primerily for accounting, while ADDS is beginning to

identify specific user commun-

itles for which special suites of software will be developed, the

first being an incomplete records

ADDS' dealer board in the US.

In the UK, some 70 System 70s

picture.

The next generation of State government information systems in the US.

Fint's system will also be

dual tape systems giving:

option of batch operation:

providing backup. It will

municate with the RM III

emulating a 2803 chater உ

At General Foods theil

MCS system will also link?

113M 370/138, but will endis-

3270 display controller astr.

not do any other comes

tions front-end processing

will not have the magnetic."

Due to be instalk**!

bury, Oxfordshire, by

should be fully operate.

to six weeks after insti-

capacity of 15 telephoneter

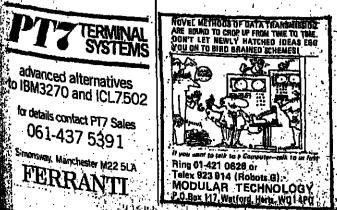
each clears way for ADDS might Did cash clears way for ADDS plans IV as well as extended Basic and Micro-Cobol, all three coming

UK. ADDS now wants to all

its business in Continued Cooper, formerly with to head the Europearope working out of a net quarters in London approach on the Commirror that in the UK.
Reliability, and the ference that ADDS has he The UK company is taking a tripartite approach to marketing microcomputer systems.

cash in the bank to the future, are the key schinge for its products.
"We took a System
Yugoslavia in a Yolks" Yugoslavia
Caravette: to demonstrate
four cities and despitation
roads and the general suproads and the general supit got, it operated particular
time was plugged in its supcompany is still sitting on an with 52K-bytes of user memory, enormous pile of cash — \$14.1 and up to three floppy disc million in the 1978 annual report drives.

Which has caused it to be Unusually for a business micknamed the National Bank of microcomputer, it offers Fortran



VOLKSWAGEN is developing a number of microprocessor-controlled applications for phosod car instrumentation. The most interesting is LISA, a German acronym for The visible part is a small console mounted on the dashboard where the driver can Made the distribution of the dashboard where the driver can wastly consult it at speed (see picture). The console comprises an extended numeric display, and a graphic display, all controlled by a majoroprocessor and memory within the console box.

Half-million at Hanover

JNDERLINING Hanover's pre sminence as the world's biggest international computer exhibi-tion, the organisers report that of the record 540,000 attending the show lest month, well over one-third of those interviewed included the exhibits in the three CeBIT computer halls on their list of essential displays to

Visitors from 108 different Visitors from 108 different countries and all continents attended the show, and the biggest aurprise is that the small country town of Hanover, with a population of only about 500,000, manages to accommodate them all.

US technicians' strike hits Univac plant

THE first major strike in the computer line total to between 13 and 14%. The computer line in the computer weekly under the guidelines, Univace by President Carter's anti-says it can offer only 7%. inflation guidelines has hit Univac's Twin Cities plant at in 1967, and lasted 17 days.

Minneapolis-St Paul. Analysts believe that Univac.

Minneapolis-St Paul.

The plant is the sole source of Univac 1100 series CPUs, and 2,700 electronic technicians

Analysts believe that Univac, as a major government contractor, will feel obliged to stand firm on the guidelines. went on strike demanding an The newest 1100, the forthincrease of 10% plus a fringe coming 1100/60, will be built the 1100/60 compared w benefits package bringing the at the plant. As exclusively predecessor, the 1100/40.

The last strike at the plant was

multiple parallel processors built out of Motorola 10800 4-bit micros to achieve a performance of 1.2 mips.

Use of the new technology has enabled Univac to make a dramatic reduction in the size of at the National Computing the 1100/60 compared with its

and CPU floor space is reduced from 52 to 121/2 square feet. One Megaword of memory takes up

Voice response system for field salesmen VOICE response equipment from MCS system will enable? Menzies Communications Sys- three computers to @ police traffic control computer tems will enable 100 main Flat municate with each others

dealers and 200 General Foods will also link IBM 3270 mg/ salesmen to input orders direct terminals on a local multicite to their head office mainframes. line into the 370/138 for fire and have each item checked for quiry. correct entry and confirmed or rejected if it is out of stock: People in the field are pro-

vided with the cheapest kind of terminal you can buy, a 16button multi-frequency keypad. and even this will be unnecessary when multifrequency push-button telephones are in widespread

Confirmation of the order comes through the telephone in the forms of a message made up from digitised recordings of spoken words held on disc. The General Foods system vocabuary is 96 words and Flat's is 128.

Fiat's £124,000 system is being installed at its Brentford, Middlesex headquarters where it will link to an IBM 370/138 and a Digital Equipment PDP-11/70 on the same site, as well as to another 11/70 at its parts distribution centre in Warrington, also owns microprotes Lancashire. maker Zilog. It uses a PDP-II

In managing these links the processor.

S. Africa growth plan Esmond Frank reports from Johannesburg

tribution patterns, and to vary routeing advice given to cars.

An experimental area of six

The fuel mixture into an idling

main roads in the Ruhr has been engine so as to keep it just tick-

equipped with sensors by ing over without stalling. The Volkswegen in association with

Biangunkt and Ingenieur-Büro microprocessor ensure that much less fuel is consumed.

PROJECTIONS based on the results of the latest survey of the 30% this year. Both systems will be THE MCS system is big !

computer base should be worth
£41,176,470 by the end of June.

The survey shows that the
value of the survey shows that the

South African computer industry by the Department of Statistics in Pretoria suggest that the country's installed Computer been should be sales revenue this year alone to

Micro-controlled car

Athestert of a journey, the driver keys in the destination code of the town or village to which he is travelling; this will have been obtained from a map or guidebook. The display

Ministry for Research and

Technology. The experiment will continue until the end of

LISA can be extended to con-trol the car's fuel supply on the

basis of inputs from an onboard

radar system signalling

obstacles ahead, provide infor-mation on speed restrictions

received from roadside sensors.

and give the driver instructions

on optimum cruising speed.

LISA will automatically regulate cruising speed to conform with

safe spacing and official speed

Another application deve-

the fuel mixture into an idling

route planner

confirms the code that the microprocessor has stored.

river Guldance and Information System.

As the journey progresses, the

tables in the road. LISA's

microprocessor transmits to these the car's destination code,

and receives in return coded in-

structions on the fastest and

there. LISA translates these into

a simplified map instructing the driver when and where to turn

turn are connected online to a

system, into which the police

can key information on traffic

bottlenecks. The computer uses this, and LISA destination codes,

to calculate optimum traffic dis-

interconnecting motorways and

developed by VW

value of the country's total in- to more than £42 million or stalled computer base grew at a about 10% of the company's compounded annual rate of 27%, from £167,647,050 to pany sales in South Africa so far pany sales in South Africa so far f270,588,230, between June, 1975, and June, 1977. The official figure is not yet available.

The state of the

Austria, West Germany, Sp.:
Abu Dhabi and the UK.
The scanner uses X-raysat.
The scanner uses X-raysat.

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The scanner uses X-raysat.

In its annual report, the Mallonal Association for State Mormation Systems (Nasis) dimpact as has the recruitment of personnel. Since 1971, it has soved from tast place to first ramatic reversal of g "The end-user price conditions at about \$10,000, including has problem."
ware," says John Bell has problem."
managing director of All has reported to the re

The report goes on to point previous year be send hold sufficient competent previous year be terms and as a send hold sufficient competent total systems.

advanced alternatives

061-437 5391

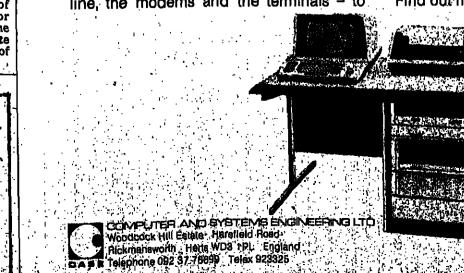
As in previous years, the most

serious of these was again missed programming schedules. It was followed in order of Importance by excessive costs programming backlogs; and missed production schedules. Nasis, which surveys DP in

stallations in all 50 States to produce its report, also detected significant changes in hardware deployment. The number of minicomputers installed, for example, had doubled since the previous year both in absolute terms and as a percentage of



Treally in ting taxk luggy as



not a semilious description of the Association and description of the control of the description of the control of the control

If there's going to be a mess on the line Analysis II will spot it



The picture above shows that lines of communication are not always trouble-free. Data travelling along telephone lines is just as likely to run into difficulty.

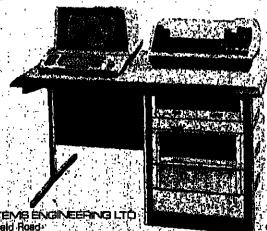
That's where Analysis II comes in. The network control system watches over the line, the modems and the terminals - to spot faults quickly, and warn the operator.

Analysis II is simple to operate, and

Who knows? It could pay for itself in the first few minutes of use.

Find out more. Talk to CASE.

inexpensive to install.



ANALYSIS II from CASE the intelligent solution in the

FULLY 'DRIVER' COMPATIBLE (WILL ACCEPT DRIVER AUTOMATIC HARDCOPY PRINTER BUFFERING AUTOMATIC 'MENU' SCREEN GENERATION BROADCAST FACILITIES MESSAGE INTERPRETATION/ERROR HANDLING CENTRALISED FILE HANDLING FULL SECURITY/RECOVERY SYSTEM SCREEN FORMAT SET-UP RATCH MODULE TESTER VTTRAFFIC STATISTICS FULL DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED (SYSTEMS/ REFERENCE/OPERATING MANUALS) SOURCE PROGRAMS PROVIDED FREE INSTALLATION SUPPORT EMONSTRATON SYSTEMS AVAILABLE BASIC PRICE £3,500 For further details contact

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MICHIE'S PRIVATEVIEW

connection formed in my mind between the romance of technology and the ideals of

flowed an endless stream of servatives draw up detailed dilapidated secondhand books blue-prints for information priced indiscriminately at tup- technology and the managepence. Like any pig rooting for ment of its social impact. truffles or forty-niner panning for gold, I would rummage have sampled some of the with meticulous care for works thinking of Ian Lloyd's infor-

Reason and disciplined enquiry, the manifest source of been pursued by Philip Virgo's these dazzling marvels of Conservative Computer today and tomorrow, could not the same methodology be applied to society itself? Could not a serenely regulated utopia homework behind the scenes. be caused to emerge from mankind's jumble of marvels?

technological revolution of some 10 years ago, and Jim rather than with any net loss of Callaghan's recent promotion jobs. of "chips with everything."

But when looking at the area of computing for signs of real there, and even if they could, scientific planning. I have been—they lack the skills in demand finding over the past few years or don't want the unskilled a strange reversal of traditio- jobs vacant." nal roles of Left and Right.

The chips blues

I remember a street stall in with Labour remaining stubmy home town over which bornly laissez-faire while ConFear of unemployment,

mation technology group (CW, April 5). Other studies have other obstacles to starting

Computer Weekly readers

Forum. Virgo's latest output "Cashing in on the chips," shows further evidence of Tory The unemployment threat is

carefully analysed, and its true days of 10 hours and one of So Tony Benn's white-hot nature is revealed as more five (for the overlap) and open all government offices from 9 concerned with change of jobs "The unemployed cannot move to where the jobs are,

private sector employment, because they can't get homes with obligatory subsidy by the employer of an additional day in the week for educational

Obstacles are further ana- variants of the 35 hour-week.

 difficulty of changing jobs without abandoning accumulated pension rights: difficulty of learning new

 difficulty of moving home; planning, legal, fiscal and

one's own business. To me the most intriguing single recommendation was "to change the standard public sector working week to three

am to 7 pm for six days a Why not generalise this to

Perhaps this, like some other

would commend itself more to the trade unions than to

It is, alas, one thing for back-room analysts like Virgo or Lloyd to show vigorous awareness, but Ministers are a breed apart.

Sir Kelth Joseph's hoped-fo appointment of a Minister of State for Information Techno logy, surely a minimal step i serious intent exists, has not I and some others hope to

obtain an opportunity to put Sir Keith to the question. Views from readers before w go would be very welcome.

Reference *Cashing in on the chips: a policy fo exploiting the semiconductor revolu-tion, by Philip Virgo, 22pp. Obtainable from Mr Virgo at 2 Eastbourne Avenue Acton, London, W3.

Algol 68 RS on the regional network which has prompted demands for a similar compiler at Algol 68 RS originates from a portable compiler project at RSRE and is written almost entirely in Algol 68 itself. The task

> Even so, a substantial effort is involved estimated by the centre at five man years. It expects to have a usable compiler available in the last quarter of 1980 and to complete the project in the first

Given the small number of Multics sites worldwide, one aspect receiving careful consideration is the scope for a further implementation under Honeywell's more widely used Gcos operating systems on the Level 64 and Level 66.

According to the centre's project manager, Martin Thomas, the Multics compiler will not be able to run on such systems without modification. It may though be possible at this design stage to minimise the future

The team is therefore investigating the scope for design trade-offs consistent with exploiting Multics' architecture to

US debut for latest version

HONEYWELL has released a new version of its Multics operating system which according to US reports has enhanced sing and reliability features.

Available at no extra charge, to existing Multics users, the release supports a new maximum of four front-end network processors; the Datanet 6670 processor; the Vip 7800 family of terminals; and IBM's 3780 RJE terminal

There is also a new optimiser for the Fortran compiler, which together with an enhanced runtime library improves Fortran program performance.

Other enhancements include the addition of the timesharing facility TSS to the Gcos simulation environment; improved batch operating facilities; and the addition of main memory testing routines enabling the system to reconfigure around faulty memory blocks.

The reports added that a transaction: processing monitor could well be the next major addition to the system and may be released before the year end-

SOFTWARE FILE-2

Ventilation design subsystem

operating system, EDX. They program recompilation and the

the two operating system was previously restricted to the For- of £38.90 and will sell for £2,332.

nounced for EDX in January one of number of major RPS

a abrary of predefined screen system. The two components of formals accessed by transaction CLF are a multi-user interactive

processing modules in Cobol, session manager and a com-

Version 4B.

Just two steps will now be

required to transfer a typical

Cobol or Fortran-based MTM

application from EDX to RPS:

EDX in October for a monthly

rental of £8.25 or a one-time

to release in July, is a compatible

be available for a rental charge

The RPS Cobol compiler is

products due to be released this

month in association with RPS

One of the most interesting of

these is the Command Language

Facility, an online developmen

The EDX Cobol compiler, due

licence fee of £493.

RTZ to market prize-winning ledger pack

to CMS under VM/370.

Also indicating the rapidly

growing sophistication of RPS is

the emergence of a subsystem of loading transients, DTPM.

Apparently designed to super-

sede ATTS, DTPM allows tran-

sients to be executed directly

from secondary storage and

hould help to overcome pre-

vious criticisms of poor langu-

age performance, especially for

DTPM (Dynamic Transient

keting rights to an award- and Dodge, of Newton, winning mainframe general Massachusetts, G/L Plus first ledger package has been appeared in the US a mere 18 resolved in favour of RTZ months ago. Since then it has

least-recently-used algorithm to

tune the system dynamically but

can be complemented by a tran-

sient activity tool PRPQ permit-

ting monitoring and control by

Also included in this month's

release are SNA support; pro-

grammable multi-line com-

munications; 370 channel

attachment; enhancements to

assembler language perfor-

mance; the indexed access

method; and sort/merge.

acclaimed by users responding to Datapro's annual software survey for 1978, its lowest rating in all categories for exceeding that achieved by competitive

packages in any category. RTZ will be marketing G/L Plus in the UK and Holland, initially to IBM 360/370 users, At its own expense, it is converting the software for ICL 1900/2900 systems and expects to complete nese versions by Christmas.

in Ansl Cobol, is also supported on Honeywell's Level 66 series. Largely parameter driven, a

major feature of the package is its flexibility. Different company renorting requirements can be met from one cony of the package via user-defined format.

On the input side, it provides a front-end translator capable of reformatting files passed from other applications, such as an existing purchase ledger.

Predominantly batch, the sys- £4,000

software houses to win mar- Developed by McCormack of an ICP \$1 million award, this year with a number o thought to be a record for first online facilities. First to be year's sales of any application released will be online edit and nckage. inquiry routines and these will The package was also be followed by software for

online auditing. The package already provides a batch auditing subsystem together with routines for financial modelling and plan-

ing.
McCormack and Dodge. whose sole business is the deve-lopment of financial application software, has so far made around 70 sales of G/L Plus in the US. Some 850 companies

have purchased M&D packages. Unlike the general ledger, however, the other financial applications are likely to require European market and are unlikely to be launched by RTZ before the end of the year.

UK prices for G/L Plus are maintenance charge after the first year. The management reporting and financial modelling subsystem, Fast, is priced at

A VENTILATION design subsystem has been added by Applied Research of Cambridge to its Oxsys computer aided design packegs. Called Xduct, it was developed from Oxsys.

Clear growth path now THE first Algol 68 compiler for the full in the interests of the full in the interests of formance. formance.
The paucity of Algorithm

MTM, the indexed access

clear growth path is now open

tran IV compiler, which was an-

Likely to be one of the most

popular of the new Series 1 facilities, MTM (Multiple Ter-

minul Manager) was released

under RPS in March. It supports

(CW, January 18). -

method, and sort/merge.

The paucity of Algolf implementations to dilet; held back its acceptance in programmer operations to dilet; held back its acceptance in mainstream programmer operations on the US as a potential compact to PL/I, both being large geet to PL/I. Fortran, and PL/I.

The paucity of Algolf implementations to dilet; held back its acceptance in programmer to purpose language. The programmer to purpose language closely similar in programmer to purpose languages. The programmer to purpose language closely similar in programmer to purpose languages. The programmer to purpose language closely similar in programmer to purpose languages. The programmer to purpose language closely similar in programmer to purpose languages. The programmer to purpose languages is the programmer to purpose language closely similar in programmer to purpose languages. The programmer to purpose languages is the programmer to purpose language closely similar in programmer to purpose languages. The programmer to purpose languages is the programmer to purpose language closely similar in programmer to purpose languages. The programmer to purpose language closely similar in programmer to purpose languages in purpose langua purpose languages.
A key difference from Pu. superstructure products prethat instead of being permiss. viously announced for RPS only Algol 68 is deliberately asai are being implemented by 1BM under the other main Series 1 tive. As a result while ki

program to compile an Albit include a Cobol compiler, the program will typically being transaction processing system RSRE, and the Oxford Univer-Thomas is optimistic that Expected to be released as an 2900 compiler will see signific commercial use, arguing to Algol 68 is naturally suited. ICL product in the next few months, it is already running on the 2980 operated by the centre structured design methods: from an entry level EDX system way that Cobol and Fortage; to a fully functioned RPS under RPS — itself a subset of OS/VS Cobol release 2.0. It will at Bath; it is the availability of

generally easier to get a N

SOFTWARE FILE-1

First Algol 68 for

Honeywell Multics

from Bath centre

and one of only a handful yet developed for any machine — is

being implemented by the South

West Universities Regional

Intended for the Level 68/DPS

system at Bristol (CW, De-

cember 21, 1978) the software

will be a re-implementation of the Algol 68 RS compiler deve-

loped for the ICL 2900 series.

This was delivered to ICL

recently following joint deve-

lopment by the centre with the

sity Computing Service.

Although ambitious new it tran and Cobol standards at currently being defined to:, corporate "structured programing" concepts, the of converting it thus consists By contrast, Algol 68 is avail: . mainly of writing a new code now and is a proven language

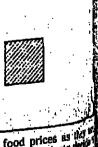
He admitted though only. obstacle could be the fatte: port DBMS calls. This has could be added with relative little effort, he thought arof his centre's continuing &:lopment and maintenancect

In addition to application gramming Algol 68 to 21 role as a system implement language and the centre is language at the 2000 miles. looking at the 2900 version. possible substitute for ICL; The Multics and 2

implementations are though: bring to about half-a-dozen number of full Algol 68 (* pilers in existence. Others clude Cambridge's Algol 650 the 360 and 370; Manchesta Algol 68 R for the 1906, and t. CDC implementation insix by four UK universities last) (Software File, January

Algol 68 S, which is available the Modular One and seve





WITH food prices as the five systems analysis deal run an allotment as a lot ture, to "provide l ables throughout the yes puchase a square plot and erect a square green

and erect a square as it, as shown here.
Then comes the queston the available dividing up the available round the greenhoust scientifically minded the scientifically minded that analysts realise that at them should have at an analysts should have at an analysts. exactly the same si Can you solve thi

Operating system for Rjad range to get 370-type facilities

THE operating system of the Rjad unified range of mainframe computers is currently being developed to offer the kind of facilities which IBM introduced over the two or three years fol-lowing the introduction of Sys-tem 370.

Called OS/ES, the operating system is currently up to release 6.0, which was introduced early last year, and supports virtual memory for the first time.
According to the East German company Robotron, which builds the largest Rjad machines currently available, the new release combines the advantages of sequential, indexed

**Release 6.1, due in March

**Release 6.1, due in March quential and direct access

Three forms of multiprogramming will be supported in OS/ES: multiprogramming with a fixed number of tasks, multiprogramming with a vari-the number of tasks, and single intual storage, SVS.

FOR DEC POP 11 USERS

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or PDP11 can do much

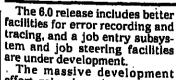
SVS will provide a single virtual storage space of up to 16 Megabytes, and will only be usable on models which include dynamic address translation.

These are the ES-1035 from the USSR, the ES-1045 from Poland and the USSR, the ES-1055 from East Germany and the ES-1065 from the USSR.

The 1065 is being developed alongside a new design for the 1060, which was to have been included in the earlier range, but never went into volume production, and has now been moder-

1980, will be followed about 18 months later by 6.2. This will include multiple virtual storages, MVS, allowing up to 16 Megabytes for each user.

Programmer Notes will be

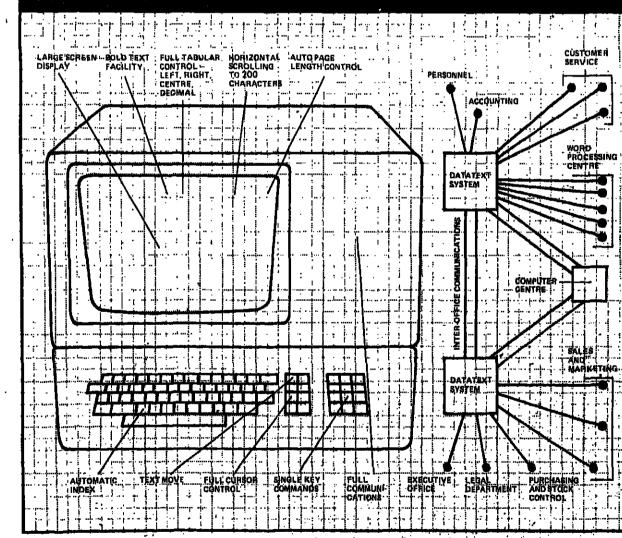


effort going into developing all this operating software raises the question of why the Comecon countries did not simply "do an Amdahl."
Users of Rjad machines say

that IBM 360 operating systems can be mounted, and run after at most trivial changes. Equally programs written to run under 360 operating systems will run under OS/ES...

The answer is that like many Western European countries for example the UK and Insac's 64K RAM — the Comecon countries feel a need to master the whole range of the technology for themselves, lest some day they be cut off from it. altogether

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By Bernard Allen

speaking

ONE of the great virtues of testain members of the opening fratemity is the direct manner which they put their visus across. Consider the following An operations managers career progression: "I have worked in both systems up programming but prefer operations because of its day-took involvement in the real work."

A shift leader on operating they are such a meaning to that I wonder why more of the state of

that i wonder why more of the that i wonder why more of the don't write to you (Op Spo) with tell you all about it."

And, finally, an operate a security: "At our site security: an absolute joke — it's set with that a 10-year-old with a set could break in."

Call for govt survey into effects of shift working

out an in-depth investigation entails. into the effects of shifts - not only in the computer industry but also in other areas where have a say in which one is they are worked."

So writes Pete Rushton, a shift sity, in response to the fact that an operator was advised to give described him as being in a state of permanent "jet lag" (Op Spot,

He goes on: "Operations staff should be given medical checkups on a regular basis - I agree out our own version of the 12-

medical should be given to a person before he is actually to be sure that he is fit enough to

According to Rushton, operations staff must be involved starting the next period on shift. when the rota is worked out the management just don't donights, and vice versa, like the

"We are the ones who have to work the rota, and so we should adopted, rather than have it thrust upon us by someone who doesn't know what it's all about."

At his installation, there are up shift work by his doctor, who four teams, each comprising eight operators, working a 12-hour shift pattern to provide 24-hour cover seven days a

He continues: "We worked with you entirely on the matter. hour shift system four and a half "But might I add that a years ago and it works extremely well for us.

"We like the system because it taken on as an operator, in order gives us rest periods between shifts. This is good because a certain amount of time is needed to adjust and 're-charge' before "And our operators aren't

Rushton makes some very interesting points and, in my view. the one about operator involvement in deciding upon a shift pattern, is of particular significance.

At one installation I know of, the operators worked days only until the ICL system was replaced by IBM kit and a two shift system was implemented.

Now a senior member of the operations staff - a person who, at that time, had no experience of shift work - insisted that the operators work a long day shift and a short evening shift. Despite the fact that several of

would enable the operators to constantly changing from days

To his credit, the person responsible for the system conceded that he was wrong and a more conventional version of the two shift pattern was

Pete Rushton has kindly sent me details of the shift system used at his site and I intend to use it in further discussions on

HINT OF THE WEEK Learning from past mistakes

ENDORSING an Op Spot hint on the use of the hardcopy log but them objected to it, the operators found themselves working and commenting further on the subject, DP manager R. Weit from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm on days.

The theory behind the rota and, along with the output, returned to the programmer or own. was that the short evening shift tions supervisor to be filed away.

"The second copy is the historical record and can be very usalist make the most of their days off. the event of a 'disaster' striking twice. Questions such as 'Howelles However, the day shift was get out of this the first time?' and 'Which version of the programs.' impractical for those operators run? can be answered by referring to it.

By Martin Banks

MICRO NEWS

VDU boost from

THE move by Computer Automation to enter the "disposable" computer market (CW. May 24) adds further greyness to the growing indistinctness that exists between minicomputers and microcomputers.

The Scout computer is going to be, as a company spokesman put it, "a minicomputer and a microcomputer price". He followed this by suggesting that several of CA's competitors will be shaken by its introduction.

prepared'

Expected to be launched at the NCC in New York next pricing information is available us yet for the European market. where the system will be introduced some months after the US

A typical Scout configuration is expected to consist of four of the eleven individual circuit boards that will be available, each of which will carry a different function of the system, available to outside companies. such as interfacing, memory,

Each board will have a selfefective cards to be discarded nther than repaired.

It is likely to use a new chip in the CPU, though no details of this are yet available.

Expanding PLANNED expansion has led to

the Robert Horne Group, a supplier of quality papers and installing a Univac 1100/12 sys-

CIS—Cobol for Intel launched

gramme of software support being initiated by Intel at the NCC next month with the nunch of the Micro Focus CIS-

The programme is expected to that the programme will include titles.

IBM research?

12 weeks.

result from research into electrochromics which is under way at IBM's Hursley research centre.

THE in-house microelectronics

design and manufacturing

year, with an investment of

some £1.5 million, has now gone

tronic Systems, it is making the

design and production service

chips either as complete large-

microelectronic sub-systems.

Known as Racal Microelec-

facility established by Racal last

VIOLET-ON-BLACK flat screen displays with computer displays because the switching process attractive performance characteristics could and colour change takes 100 milliseconds.

At Hursley, the addressing time has been The principle being applied is that certain com-reduced to four milliseconds and below using a pounds change colour when suspended in an derivative of a compound called viologen. Vioelectrolyte and the polarity is changed. Silver is logens are soluble salts and both ICI and Philips one such, but is impractical for application in have been working on different ones.

The idea is to use a matrix of silicon semiconductors to ad-Racal's in-house R&D dress each square colour unit in the screen directly, and IBM's progress was reported by Dr Donald Burclay at the laboratory earlier this month. week, typical Scout systems will cost around \$1,000 in the US. No. Seeks outside orders

Electrochromic displays have several advantages. They are passive and have power-off turnround time can be as little as memory. This means that not only does the information dissign work needed is for the final played remain visible without mask interconnection pattern. refresh until it is altered, but This is designed using a Racalsurvives when the power is

ivailable to outside companies. Based in Reading, the service Based in Reading, the service Based in Reading the service diagnostic capability, indicated by a light emitting diode. The philosophy is that the buards will as thick-film hybrid

implete THE cost of software for microcomputer systems continues to According to managing director Keith Thrower, Racal's uncommitted logic array technocommitted logic array technology is one of the most advanced unlikely to fall much lower than the price being charged by Pet-Using silicon gate cells de- soft for a range of Adam signed with 5 micron geome- Osbotne programs.

tries, the company claims that An effective price of under 20 parts manufactured with its pence per program is being ULA process have high pucking charged for a set of 76 financial density, low power consumption and mathematical programs orand fast switching speed. Design iginally developed by Osborne, the American best-selling author on microcomputers and small systems software.

The set is available at £15, and MORE details are now available outside vendors. The products the programs first appeared in of the Vendor Supplied Pro. will however be marketed and Osborne's, "Some common basic supported by Intel, and will in programs." They include mortclude both compilers like CIS- gage amortisation, linear pro-

grow rapidly into a wide range any product that offers a The set has been a year in keyboard. Delieveries are of software products supplied by: 'worthwhile software solution. conversion from book form to between 14 and 21 days.

the Commodore Pet. They are available by mail order, direct from Petsoft itself, and will also be for sale through its 157 UK distributors.

For those requiring documen-tation and listings of the programs the book is also available Printers ready and waiting

PRINTERS, at slightly lower cost and quicker delivery than usual, are now available from Abacus Computers in London The company has obtained supplies of Centronics Mini, 761, 702 and 703 systems, Texas instru-Cobol, and applications packs. gramming, future value of an A spokesman tor the company investment recipe cost and sysin: Santa Clara said last week tem reliability amongst other gramming future value of an ments 810s and MEC Spin-witters. Prices range from E421 for the Centronics Mini through to £2,165 for a Spinwriter with

prices are released PRICING details are will able on the two versions new 16-bit microprocessin-

quantitles since the early par.

March this year.
The Z8001, which is now in the Inches.

Zilog Z8000

introduced by Zilog. The Z8002, which is the "?" version designed for address up to 64K bytes of met. directly, costs £100 each I: has been available in sar;

dress lines and segmentalitrap line required for the Lat

The Lake Placid installation

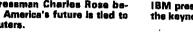
The 24-mile link at Lake Placid consists of 12 fibres. Six of them will handle 288 voice com-

The White Plains line is 30 miles long, and has repeaters about every three miles. It can handle 14,000 audio channels

fibre optics transmission systems go back 20 years to experiments at Bell Laboratories that led to the development of the laser. In 1976 a complete light transmission system was tested in Atlanta. The New York Installations are direct descendants of the Atlanta experiment.

One of the most difficult problems to be faced by the developers of the light beam systems is the provision of small reliable lasers that work at infra-red wavelengths, infra-red light has lower losses in the glass fibres. As such infra-red agers are developed, the cost of light transmission is expected to drop sharply and usage of the pew sharply and usage of the new medium will increase.

NCC '79 will delve into social effects







about the ways computers affect society; James But for most visitors, the importance of this year's NCC will be its quality, not its quantity.

Albus's session on advanced industrial robots; Carolyn Landis' presentation on the status of Americans, forced to think in global terms by oil women and minorities in computing; and Kasivshortages and political surprises, are becoming isvanathan Vairavan's discussion on the ways computers affect developing countries. This year's convention is the largest yet, in terms of the number of exhibits, the size of the

exhibits, the number of persons who are ex-

pected to attend and the number and variety of

acutely aware that computing and data communications will have a great bearing on the conduct of international affairs. The US computer industry, which has looked

inward in the past, is now maturing. The NCC, which has sometimes lagged rather than led the industry, appears to be maturing as well.

NOW, MORE OF HESH WIENER'S LETTER FROM AMERICA

Listening in to secret

of computers

in New York from June 4 to 7, demonstrates that Rose will speak on "Computers, law and public

computing topics.

THE National Computer Conference, to be held

the US computer industry is belatedly broadening its perspectives. Quite a few of the speakers at the conference will address issues

issues such as international data flow, the

social effects of computers, the future of ad-

vanced as well as less-developed nations are all

in the past, the emphasis of the conference was

markedly different; typical speakers talked

about engineering techniques or software

methods. That technical side of the industry is

well-represented this year, but it no longer

BM president, John Opel, will open the conference as keynote speaker. Characteristically.

neither Opel nor IBM will reveal the content of

Later that day Dr Willis Ware, of Rand Corp,

will speak about computers and society, a topic

that has been the object of his work for some

Tuesday's featured speaker will be Charles

echt, head of Advanced Computer Techniques.

Histopic is to be future directions in computing.

Lecht thrives on controversy, and so do his fans

there are many — and philosophical adver-

saries (there are many of those, too).

that go beyond the confines of computers.

central topics this year.

ominates the conference.

he planned speech.

TFLEPHONE service personnel in the US - the people who in wer complaints at local telephone company offices — may be subject to a little-known invasion of privacy: their telephones could be open to the ears of anyone in possession of certain secret telephone numbers. These numbers enable outsiders to listen in on AT&T

For some time service personnel have been aware that super-visors may be listening to their business calls. This process is carried out in the interest of expected to be available september, will cost £130.00 off. This is the 48-pin version. September, will cost the service, off. This is the 48-pin verse; insuring high quality service, according to AT&T. It had been presumed, however, that this eavesdropning were that this In both devices the same busing local manager was confined to chip is used, with the seven local managers in various AT&T

it was believed, by most who had looked at the situation, that AT&T had achieved an accept-The Z8001 uses a memi specific privacy on the part of dress 8 Mbytes, and this with controlled by a memit controlled by a memit management unit that is performed by these employees. able balance between the desire



On the Wednesday, Congressman Charles

policy". Rose, more than any other person in the US Congress, has stated that America's future is tied to the wise use of computers.

His views, which may well be translated into

law, could place the government in opposition to the desires of the industry as he examines social

priorities in relationship to the needs of business.

Isaacson speaking on "Personal computing — is it worth it?" Dr Isaacson is deeply involved in the

personal computer business as the owner of

computer stores and as a speaker on personal

Other topics to be discussed at the NCC in-

clude Edwin Spievack's session on regulation

and anti-trust control of computers and com-

munications. George Michael will describe his

experience with mass storage at the Livermore

Laboratories, and Rein Turn is to hold a forum on

privacy protection in transnational data systems.

affects computer exports will be discussed under

the chairmanship of Arthur Downey; and

Edward Zimmerman will describe the way com-

teaching college students and professionals

Other events include Gerald Engel's forum on

puters are used in the White House.

At another forum, US foreign policy as it

Thursday's featured address has Dr Portia

Winter Olympics

TWO fibre optics transmission lines are being installed in New York State. One will be used in he upstate town of Lake Placid, where the 1980 Winter Olympics will be held, while the other will run from New York City through several suburban cities to White Plains

will be temporary, and when the media have left after the

But the New York-White Plains line will carry thousands of audio links in regular commercial service along a route that is one of the busiest communications paths in the US.

The fibre optic cable is about 2 cm in diameter, but is the equivalent of several twisted pair cables each 10 to 12 cm thick.

munications channels, two will provide television links and fourwill be used as back-up chan-

The technical roots of today's

Loans to S. Africa revealed

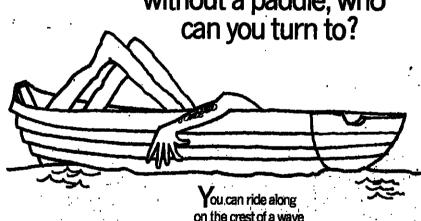
against racism. The United Nasorted through and analysed to the banks and the govern-tions Special Committee thousands of facts to produce a ments that oversee them will Against Apartheid has revealed unified picture of banking active eventually lead to restrictions the sources of \$5.5 billion in bank loans to South Africa, the Corporate Data Exchange, a most extensive list of its kind yet New York research organisa-The project was completed

topics that will be presented.

The UN group apparently is group finds abhorrent.

ities. The work was done by against such loans. Ultimately, these restrictions could force the abandon policies which the UN

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end of this year. Zilog is, his ever, due to give details of CONTACT A

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Yorkshire Water Authority plan to process water for house. River Derwent for house the helat state of the sta River Derwent for hold and drinking supplies is bring and drinking supplies is bring and vided by Serck Control to Learnington Spa which the stall a Serck 2D1. Free moster station at Barmby Its master station at Barmby Its system features 84K of the system features 84K of the montry and linked to k with memory and linked to k with Serck Chromimic colour video.

Great expectation

ADDING to the growing is expected new products it is week's NCC in New York week's NCC in New derit in new microprocessor derit in ment system from Fairchill tended for use within 1940 and 9445 micros

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PEOPLE AND EVENTS



Wood, 86, enjoys the company of Denise Lartor, a wirer with CMC of Hemel Hempstead, at a night out at the company's HQ.

mainly First World War voterans, from the Royal Hospital in Chelses who were invited to a bar

IDPM Midlands elections

MANAGEMENT consultant Jim secretary; David Cox, treasurer; Ross was elected chairman of the newly formed Midland Regional Council of the IDPM at a meeting held at Birmingham Chamber of

The main aim of the council was to set up branches of the institute in the Midlands and this is understood to London following the merger bet-ween the IDP and the DPMA.

Other officers elected were: Peter on Tuesday, June 12. It starts at 7.00 Cratg. vice-chairman; Colin Bailey, pm.

games evening, where they played dominous, darts and crib-bage with CMC staff.

The event, which was enjoyed by all, was organised by the

tary; Paul Thompson, publicity; and Dave Close, education. The following were elected to serve on the council's committee - Peter Birley, T. Bounds, Peter Craig, Roger Dowle, Karen and Steve Hazeldine, Colin Marples, Mike Thornton, Ken Wagstaff und Chris. Youett.

The next meeting will be at Metro House, Hagley Rond, Birmingham

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speakers are pictured above.

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Address

UCSL reorganises sales and marketing

Microsystems, has unnounced the appointments of specialists in its sales and programming divisions, and also a reorganisation following the acquisition of Pensions and In surance Computer Services (PICS).

Keith Moon has become account manager in the sales team at UCSL. He joined the company from Data Recognition where he was a salesman. Mike Williams has also been appointed to this position. He has worked for UCSL since 1970, and has been in Lusaka, where he worked a two-year contract with ICT Central Africa, designing systems for the Zambian Ministry of Finance.

Assistant development manager responsible for special customer designed software is Margaret Powell.
She will head a team of microprocessor programming experts responsible for the design of programs for the M45 and M50 data entry

market requirements.

Mike Judd will direct the reorganised PICS, and the new address is 5 St John's Lane, London EC1. Tel: 01-250 0812. igned software is Margaret Powell.

Control Data appointments

The data services division of Control Data has announced a number of new appointments.

Team leader in the South is David

Withey, a former senior salesman with the company. Len Greenwood has transferred to this division from Control Data where he has been a support analyst.
Several new appointments include that of Graham Kimberley from

that of Graham Kimberley from Cable and Wireless, Peter Furness from Marconi Research, Richard Galpin from Merck, Sharp and Dohme and Alian Derby an exfreelance programmer. All join as sales people for the South. sales people for the South.

In the North, the new appointments include that of John Gelder, who is from Burroughs, Nigel Seed from John Thompson Engineering, Maureen Garwood, a former accountant with Sharples Photomethanics and Poher Alla form

Powell was head of computer and mathematical services for the Fire

Carrie Bedford, who used to work for an export agency in Manchester, has become marketing assistant for UCSL. She joined the company as secretary to the general manager, Bob Gilkes.

PICS, which was acquired last year, is taking over the business for the pension and insurance sectors being handled by other UCSL divisions.
As part of the reorganisation,

Geoff Humphrey takes up the posi-tion of industry, consultant within UCSL, with responsibility for con-sultancy and for identification of the

ian Bacon, a former consultant with Gemini Computer Systems, has become manager of the recently opened office for Information Pro-cessing People, IPP (Northern).

Mike Davies has been appointed managing director of Wescode Equipment. He is a former management consultant specialising in international marketing and general

Don Dehard has joined Versatec as UK salesservice manager. He was formerly with Computer Techno-logy before becoming hardware pro-ject manager for Versatec.

Eddy Dalton has been appointed managing director of the new com-pany, Wright Air Conditioning thern), which has been established at Lecds. A former Northern sales manager, Duncan Smith, has become sales director of the company, which forms the sixth service member of the Wright Air Contomechanics and Robert Allin, from White, Young and Partners.

Liveware File

D'YOU LIKE MY ENGAGEMENTRING



Annand Shariff, manager of Bur-Annand Shariff, manager of Burroughs large accounts marketing South London branch, is joining the company's international group at the Detroit headquarters. He is to be product manager for large systems. The new manager of the south London branch will be Peter MacLeod, who is currently Burroughs computation, systems, proposition

Vice president

Association has announced the appointment of Cyril Brown as vice president of the Federation Europeenne des Associations de Conseils en Organisation (FEACO). Brown is managing director of Annan Impey Morrish, a management consultancy firm, and was chairman of the

DIARY

JUNE 4 GEC 4000 series Fortran systems, W.D.

Weekly wages by direct credit. BCS, City University, London EC1, Contact Christine Cox, BCS on 01-637 0471.

Computer interpretation of hand printed Fortran programs. M. Brady. Nuclear Physics, lecture theatre, Keble Road, Oxford, 1630.

AGM and wine and cheese, BCS Merseyside branch, Liverpool University Abercromby Square, Liverpool, 18.00.

Finding finance for the small business. CAET. Drury Lane Hotel, Drury Lane, London WC1.

JUNE 11-13 Technical study in legal information retrieval in Europe — symposium on results of the study. European commis-sion, and Council of Europe. Council of Europe, Palais d'Europe, Avenue de l'Eu-rope, Strasbourg, France.

Simetured Programming, North East London Polytechnic, Barking, London, Details 01-500 5141, ext 49. Simplicity and approximation in sequential pattern identification. B. Gaines, Oxford University, Kebic Rond, Oxford, 15.00.

World fartifity survey: technical pro-blems of international research and AGM Study group on computers in survey analysis, London School of Hygiene and

By Judith Morris

Award for chie

TV programm

The BBC Television Horizoprogramme, "Now the chipse down," which examined a role and impact of microprospections, has won an award for Goldwyn, who wrote the pagramme.

Goldwyn receives £1,500 winner of the General Categor of the 1978 Technology Winner of these are sponsor by ITT Business Systems where the suspices of the Associate of British Science Writer.

The awards were present yesterday at a reception ute Savoy Hotel by Lord Histop.

or water division of rings on previously manager of the loop division of Perseus, and E Eggiman, formerly an electric engineer with Borer in Switzer

Manfred Amandi bis b

appointed managing director.
Data Recording German subsiders
based in Munich. He will be be

ponsible for controlling DRESES and service operations in Gerra

and Austria. Previously hele

similar positions in computers keting with AEG-Telefunkar.

JUNE 18-21 London Chamber of Commerce Gual Contuct Cliff Land, London Charter Commerce, 01-248 4444.

Future recognition and to outomation. J. Weaver, Oxfold sity. Nuclear Physics Jecture S Keble Road, Oxford, 1039

JUNE 20-22 JUNP. 20-22
FTCS-8, the ninth annual owns
conference on fault-tolerant off,
IEEE Computer Society (Maxwell Conference)
Wisconsin. Contact IEEE Con-

JUNE: 27

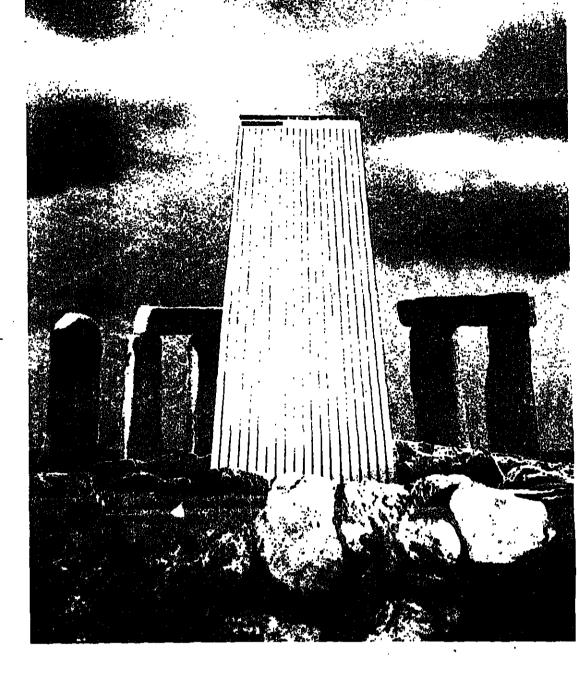


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TIM PALMER ON THE COMECON COMPUTER SCENE

Do-it-yourself service is the Robotron rule

centres in the Socialist countries, and the comparatively small population of mainframe computers, it is uneconomic for the supplier to try to 370/145, although it is more like a large 360, and provide a round-the-clock maintenance service.

for customers of VEB Kombinat Robotron, the compared with 0.43 for the 148, but Robotron Fast German enterprise which builds the most powerful computers in volume production in the Megabytes, bringing it closer to the 370/158.

765 Portable Bubble

A fully portable terminal with non-volatile bubble memory that retains data

even without power. The 765 has a full ASCII

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Memory Terminal

These mainframes are the ES-1040, which Con-Robotron's the ES-1055. The specification of the 1055 makes it Do-it-yourself maintenance is therefore the rule a little more powerful than the 370/148, 0.45 mips

plans to expand maximum main memory to four

First delivered in 1974, the ES-1040 is the most successful mainframe in the Rjad line, with well over 200 installed, and between 40 and 50 to be built this year, as well as 11 ES-1055s. .

Instead of providing maintenance to customers, Robotron trains the customer's own engineers, and the largest training centre is in Leipzig, where a teaching staff of 200 educate 2,000 students a year.

Since Robotron has installations or customers in all the Socialist countries, as well as raq, India, Cuba, Yugoslavia, Mongolia, North Korea - and Control Data in the US - the najority of the students going hrough the training school are foreign. Where it is necessary to give a course in a foreign language, interpreters generally have to be used, but the number of courses available in Russian and English is growing. •

Robotron provides hardware and software courses at Leipzig. and also trains operators. For a mainframe installation, 10 operators and seven maintenance engineers are usually trained - and the students are put forward by the customer.

However, a minimum education standard is required, and preliminary tests are given. If students put forward has to bear the cost.



in a planned economy, each sector is given a centrallydecided priority, and that given to computers in the Comecon countries is such that there is a

shortage of computer hardware. At the training school Robotron has one fully configured ES-1040 system, and a 1055 CPU which is being configured with peripherals and can be linked to the 1040 in a multiprocessor configuration. A second 1040 processor is dedicated to training CPU specialists, and training in online techniques

an old R21, which is EScompatible, runs under the DOS/ES operating system, but having been built in 1971, predates the Unified Range.
The shortage of hardware

makes it tough for the students. "Hardware is our-biggest investment," says Helmut gets a stock of spares, and a Steinhoff, head of hardware technology at the school, "and we have to get maximum use out of it. Practical courses are tractable, Robotron engine run in three shifts, which makes are available to give assistation there is a third 1040 CPU for it hard for the students who go and the Kombinat has a ton! on at midnight. But although 1,000, covering mainitames they cannot perform at their office computers.

There is also an ES-1022, and best, we have been doing her? keep it that way." weeks, hardware course;

weeks, and there are an are: 24 students per course. As well as getting mare: nance engineers, the custom standard complement #

Videoton sales to West soar

AFTER a slow start, sales of Videoton computer equipment and services to the West are beginned. soar, and the company has scored some solid successes in West Germany where it began is no thrust. Videoton is planning to sell \$180 million of computer equipment this year, up to 12% from it and 80% is exported, mainly to other Comecon countries. But Western business, accounting forced million in 1977, grew fivefold last year and for 1979, Videoton has secured contracts worth \$100.000.

already. Unlike its East German counterpart Robotron, Videoton chose to license Western technology as a springboard into the



Contraction of

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computer business, and has found favour in Yugos forged a close and successful Videoton is still lowrelationship with the minlcom- Western European parts puter division of CII, and its marketing minicomp successor SEMS.

offer its customers as up-to-date a minicomputer of the working closely with specific videoton has contributed. date a minicomputer as any software development of available, and at Hanover minis, collaborating of part showed its own version of the new SEMS Mitra 225 a few days before it was announced in It is also developing Basickit

"We are very careful not to do sharing subsystem.

In the Riad united range in the Riad united range in the Riad united in the anything to bring us into conflict with SEMS," says Dr Csaba Barath, exhibitions manager throughout the Socialist throughout through the Socialist thro with Videoton. This effectively precludes straight minicomallows Videoton to offer systems packaged with software for a particular application.

The two current Videoton minicomputers are the single-board VT 60, and the new VT 600, which comes on two boards and uses the Motorola 6800 micro in the peripherals con-

On the way is a version built using the AMD 2901 bit-slice IN its second year of marketing also a tape cassette unit of Mera's computer products in Western own design, and the plasma display can be replaced by a CRT. micro which will appear as the

Mera 100 office computer, shown there. The 8-bit processor, built in TTL, is, surprisingly perhaps, not a microprocessor. It comes with 8K aystem is currently sold by Delos of Mela memory, and is programmed in proprietary assembler, and comes with two floppy discs, full width printer, both built under licance from Logabax of France, and a Burroughs plasma display. There is business is minis, including products like the Videoplex simple, low-cost key-to-disc system. Based on the VT 60, it supports more than adapted Videoton TV monitors, which helps to reduce costs. As well as being sold in the Comecon countries, these have

tems such as the Videophi

director of research and technical planning at Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, has predicted that Emitter Coupled Logic technology will give the Control Control the company's top-end machine.
But the difficulties in machine and working on a c

throughout the Socialist " the technology from Rockwell International, a company he betries, Videoton offers the E 1011, which is based on the leves is doing good work on it. To make the best use of new A larger, 370/115-4 machine, the ES-1015, with not based on SEMS licence ! go on show in Moscow la ba The VT 2000 series of distribution of the VT 2000 series of th

ithography. recognition.
With electron beam etching has been claimed.

IDPM tidies up merger

ATan emergency meeting of the full voting membership. This Institute of Data Processing viewpoint won the day.

Management last week.

The meeting had been called to tie up constitutional loose in Finland and Algeria.
Videoton has sold land er the secretary-general should be elected by the rank-and-file or appointed by the In-

Held in the Bloomsbury Cenine Hotel, London, the present a secretary-general, Ted Cluff, signed that the holder of his office should be elected by the

WITH its research and development investment planned to be we have already achieved submicron widths," said Borgerson, "We are hoping for one-tenth of a micron eventually. Our biggest problem is particle scattering which makes it impossible to vanced technologies such as etch a line the exact width of the beam you are using. You have to make allowances for this."

Micro network to

different tasks such as proces-

sing for various levels of

management or polling to find

messages or files to be passed

Typically, three factory level

clusters report to a similar divi-

sion level cluster. This would

have I Gigabyte of disc store and

handle communications bet-

ween the network and the

mainframe, selecting the appro-

priate path according to the type of link, for example, for trans-

Potential customers have IBM

and Honeywell mainframes and Woods expects to have the Pets

emulate IBM 2260 or 3270 dis-

play terminals for upward com-

Typical systems would have about 90 Pets controlling 600

advanced technology

action or batch processing.

clusters. This could cost in the

region of £1.5 million, depending

on the interfaces. At factory

machine level the interfaces

mimic 'foremen'

NETWORK of micros de-

signed to mimic the human or-

ganisation of a group of fac-

tories is being developed by Robin Woods, technical director

of Isher-Woods, microprocessor

Given the unlikely name of

Mercator's Projection, Woods'

system uses groups of Commo-

dore Pets as "foremen" to

supervise up to 20 Texas Instru-

ments PM550 process control-

ers or to monitor laboratory

The Pets report to a factory

level supervisor in the form of a

cluster of two or three close-

coupled minis. These would be Digital Equipment or Data

Texas instruments 9900s or DXS

data exchange systems. Woods,

as an ex-Texas man, is familiar

ment investment planned to be

\$167 million this year, up \$9 mil-

lion from last year, Univac has

stated that a major part of this

will be spent in acquiring ad-

Gallium Arsenide (GaAs)

semiconductors, voice input/

output systems, and Josephson

Junction circuits.
As highlighted at a Univac seminar in Paris earlier this

month, many of the techno-

As previously reported (CW,

May 17), Barry Borgerson,

specialists, of Luton, Beds.

Already providing commercial income, a voice response unit, called the VRU-104, has been sold to the West German mail-order company Otto Versand. Seven will soon be instal led and a further three by the

logies are a long way off, but in some areas, results are already end of the year. The VRU-104 is accessed by phone lines, and customers input order information not keypad. This keypad converts electrical signals into audio logy will give way to GaAs tones to which the system is chiques within a decade on programmed to respond

The nature of the response depends on what routine is manufacturing GaAs materials being used, but all output from is such that Borgerson indicated that the URU-104 is composed of the URU-104 is composed by the URU-104 is composed of the URU-104 is composed by the that Univac would probably digitised human speech held in take the short route and buy in memory, not of artifically syn-

Regarding speech recognition, experiments are going ahead on a linguistic patternsemiconductor materials, however, Univac is attempting to able to accept both single words devise new wafer lithography and sentences from a number of techniques as well — particularly X-Ray and Electron Beam lithography.

speakers. On the company present prototype, an estimated recognition accuracy of 90%

ends arising from the merger of the former DPMA and the IDP

The rule changes agreed now mean that the council can elechonorary fellows, subscriptions are payable on the anniversary of a member's election, that changes in subscriptions can only be made at AGMs.

Amateurs' 360 may prove to be white elephant

of a liability than an asset, as club president, Paul Nascom who spoke at the last meeting. Maddison, admits that the club could not raise Microcomputers owned by the members in-

be unable to take up the offer.

would replace relay and analo-gue loop interlocks. Woods says he is taking on people now to work on the project and thinks he is six to nine months away from his first mer break from July to September. It invites other bureaux.

peen offered an IBM 360, but this could be more as Paul Greenhalgh and Howard Birkett from

the money necessary to maintain it by itself. clude three homebrew Z80 systems, three The system could be worth several thousand Nascoms, a Pet, a MK14 and a 6800 based pounds, but unless the club finds a sponsor with premises and backing of up to £5,000 a year it will activity in specialist groups based on each micro. be unable to take up the offer.

The club started three years ago as part of the Southampton University students' union, and split off last year to enable outsiders to join. Its four students bought an ICL 1301 for £200 in 20 members meet at the university on the first order to learn about computers. It now has two Wednesday of each month, except for the sum- 1905Fs and a 1904E and runs overload work from



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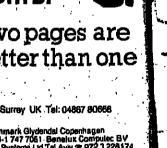
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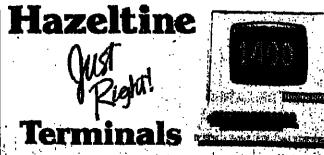
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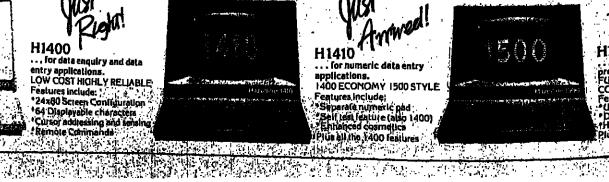














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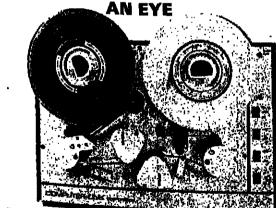
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MARKETVIEW

switching system, a smaller and much cheaper version of the 3750 that it has sold in Europe since 1974. First customer installations, spart from pilot sites, in the first quarter 1980 will coincide with the general release (after PO trials) of the competing QEC SL-1, Pleasey PDX and ITT Unimat stored program controlled private automatic branch exchange announced last year, as well as of the Post Office's own CDSS.

THE functions offered on most electronic flip-flop gates, stored program controlled private automatic branch elephone exchanges fall into three groups:

1. Traditional telephone line switching such as that handled by electro-mechanical ex-

2. Advanced telephone switching and monitoring functions which are not available on older systems but are still within the voice telephone switching

3. Data collection, processing and file inquiry and update facilities. They bring some of the new PABXs closer to data and word processing.

The telephone switching functions are those that private telephone exchanges, both manual and automatic, like their bigger brothers in the public networks, have performed since telephones first appeared at the end of the last century.

The new all-electronic PABXs network. that have appeared on the Continent in the last three years, and are now appearing also in greater numbers in the UK, use either of two alternative switching technologies for these traditional functions.

Space division exchanges multiplexed with other bit connect all incoming and out- streams from other active congoing external and internal lines nections on a common system to a three-dimensional matrix of bus, which it leaves again on

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COMPUTER WEEKLY

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BY FRED

How significant are these new electronic PABXs? Do they just perform traditional telephone switching functions faster and more cheaply? Or are they an important step towards the much talked-about "automated office" in which telecommunications converge with data proces-

these questions and the relevant differences be-tween the various manufacturers' new models.

reaching its destination output gate. Here another codec analogue form.

path does not intersect with any ther live connection path on its way, the voice signals can remain AC analogue in the 300 to 3,000 Hz range throughout their path, as they do in Strowger and crossbar ex-

The IBM 3750 and the new PE, Philips EBX, and Siemens EMS PABXs are all space divi-

8,000 times per second on entering the switch by a codec (coder-decoder), which turns the sampled tone into one of 256 predefined 8-bit codes, the result

through which the stored program controller then sets up discrete paths between any calling line and the line that it is

As each such live connection

1750, ITT Unimat sold by STC. and, on the Continent, Ericsson

The alternative technique is time division and exchanges using this work on a completely different principle which is derived from the TD multiplexers used on pulse code modulation trunks in the public telephone

Each live voice line is sampled being a 64K bit stream. This is

for the PABX as a whole and for extensions; teleconferencing facilities: automatic rerouting of incoming calls to a different extension on a temporary or permanent basis: "hunting" for the first free extension out of a predefined group; camp facilities on busy extensions, with automatic call-back when they are free; extensions entitled to call senior International executives or long distance or international outside lines

exchanges.

other facilities on offer.
The SPC PABX can log the chargeable outside calls initiated from each extension and output such information in print or on a diskette.

directly and there are many

All the new competing SPC exchanges support essentially the same range of advanced telephone switching and monitoring functions, though they differ in the expandability (Table 1).

replace it with an all-electronic

Another way of preserving

put the required stored program

functions in each extension

handset, instead of in the central

switching system. This is what

Nixdorf has done on the 8811

Datatel, An Intel 8080-controlled

telephone handset combines ad-

vanced telephone switching

functions with a variety of

optional data entry and output

The 8811 is available to West

German PABX users, but has

not been type-approved by other

post offices. Nor is it likely to be

in the UK, as long as the British PO maintains its insistence on a

igid separation between voice

telephone handsets (which must be maintained by PO engineers,

Since these valuable advanced Mr Jack Mentel The Farley Company, Suite 605. Hanna Building, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 (216) 621-1919 switching and monitoring functions result from the use of stored program control, rather than any particular switching technique, it ought to be possible to add them with SPC to existing installed crossbar PABXs, rather than take the equipment out entirely and

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even when they are connected to a PABX) and data terminals Computer Weekly International is sent free of charge to the computer veekly international is sent read to trial following categories: Company directors, company actretaries, management acrylices executives, civil servents responsible for computing, management/computer consultants, lecturers and teachers, data processing managers, systems analysis/O&M (maintained by manufacturers), ection and file inquiry facilities with voice telephony on a com-mon handset as in the Nixdorf officers, programmers, operators, computer salesmen, field engines(s. 8811 is an example of conver-

Automated phone techniques show flexibility

remodulates its signals back into Time division is regarded as

the telephone switching technotelecommunications and DP. logy of the future because it is simpler, and therefore both the large 3750 switching system cheaper to manufacture and that it has sold since 1974, and its easier to maintain, more comnew 1750 announced in March pact with savings in floor space (CW, March 22) but in a manner and power consumption. The British Post Office's new CDSS, acceptable to the British PO. GEC SL-1, Plessey PDX, and , in France, CIT-Alcatel Citedis and Télic 25.0x series, are all TD

These differences in switching

technology do not affect the

ability of either type of exchange

to offer more advanced

telephone switching functions

than the older Strowger and

crossbar exchanges. This results

from the fact that they are con-

trolled by a stored program

computer, rather than by the

hardwired control logic of the

older semi-electronic crossbar

Stored program flexibility

allows SPC PABXs to offer a

frequently used numbers, both

host of more advanced functions

The telephone handsets connected to the 1750 and 3750 are conventional rotary dial or pushbutton multi-frequency handsets identical to those now offered by the PO to all subscribers, and thus easily maintainable by PO engineers. But multi-frequency handset keys can also be used to send data entry and/or file inquiry coded signals to a computer connected to the 1750 or 3750, after the 1750 or 3750 switch has first set up a switched connec-

IBM offers similar facilities on

not yet offer the software for So far, the 1750 and 3750 are still unique on the European market in the range of converging facilities that they offer.

In West Germany, Telefon and Normalbau, the telephone manufacturing arm of the AEG-Telefunken group, offers an optional data collection computer, the TENOdat 5000 or 7000. for interfacing to its TN-6030 TD PABX systems. Nixdorf offers the 8811 Datatel integrated voice and data terminal. All other European telecom-

munications equipment manufacturers restrict their latest SPC PABXs to traditional and advanced voice telephone switching functions (Table 1).

telephone handsets are unque tionably useful features, how ever, in any office equipped with its own computer system Ye only two West German manufacturers have made at i provision for it, apart from Bi and their systems are not un! rently available outside West

The British and French manufacturers of time division PABXs have not even takened vantage of their switching, method to give terminals how with direct access to the syster; bus, on which data through of up to 64K bps could be offer. on the same time-slot as as a dinary voice line.

			Traditional switching		Adva	ınced	funct	ions		Co	váetě	ing fur	ictions	
- 1		i	Number of lines		•	40							Ē	l
	•	rechnology	Trunks	Extensions	Abbreviated dialling/codes	Camp on busy line	l eleconferencing	Restricted access	Call charge	MORRIOTENS	Oata collection	Secarity locks	Environment contro	
*	Systems offered in Europe IBM 1750 3750 ITT Unimet 4060 4080	8D 8D 8D 8D	0-96 48-240 0-56 48-400	100-750 248-2,000+ 100-384 200-2,000	×××	×××	X X X	X X X	×		×	×	X (
	United Kingdom Post Office CDSS 1 GEC SL-1 Plessey PDX	TD TD TD	0-20 0-800 0-120	20-120 100-4,000 100-800	×	X X X	X X X	X X	×	(-
	France CIT Citedis Citel Ericsson PE 1TT Unimat 4050	TD SD SD SD	100-1,800 0-150 1-2,000 0-32	1,000-9,000 12-1,280 2-8,000 12-126	X X X	X X X	×××	X X X	3	•				
/ i i /	West Germany ITT Unimat 4080 Siemens EMS T&N TN-4030 TN-8030 Nixdorf 8811*	SD SD SD TD	0-32 2-2,000. 3-10 8-128 2	12-126 10-12,000 30-100 80-960	X X X X	X X X X	X X X	X X X	3	< < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < < <	×			

Table 1. Stored program controlled PABX facilities. SD = Space division. TD = Time division · Not a PABX, but an intelligent integrated voice / data ter

tion between handset and com-

When it is a file inquiry requiring a computer response, the computer can send this via a voice output unit, which the inquirer can then receive through his telephone handset. Or it can send it to a separate alphanumeric display or printer located within the immediate

vicinity of the inquiring handset. This is not the only converging facility offered on the IBM 1750 and 3750. They can also be equipped with special interfaces for a number of other terminal units, such as identity badge readers and time clock.

The 1750 and 3750 offer special interfaces and communications protocols for all computer systems from IBM's General Sys-tems and Data Processing Divi-

The switching systems can send an extension user's file in-quiry, or collected data to a connected computer. The computer in turn can send dialling signals to the 1750 or 3750 to set up a temporary connection with any extension or with a distant The combination of data col- the switched public telephone terminal system, if necessary via "network...

IBM itself uses this facility for an internal company electronic mailbox system between its

Instead, data terminals be connected to these PARE (except the TN-6030) vis " It is true that in an age of ever cheaper programmable microsame modems of up to 9,600k processors, there are fewer and as on space division PABX fewer arguments for sharing the control logic of a PABX among so many functions not directly ordinary public switch related to voice telephony, as telephone lines. It looks as if in the plot IBM does on the 1750 and 3750. of the converging application of the 1980s creative inter-And while IBM does not release

tion and a capacity f that only a small proportion of thinking is more important its existing 3750 customers have thinking is more impaire telephone switching expe and such creative im

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Low costs of programming in UK offfer excellent software market LETTER TO THE EDITOR developed nations. Conse-

HAVING spent a good part of my data processing career abroad, including seven years in Hong Kong as data processing viser/manager with the Hone Kong government (the government data processing depart-ment was set up in 1966, not the six years ago you quoted). I was interested in your article on the growth of computer utilisation here. In addition, office accommodation rentals are astron the colony (CWI, April 26). town New York), hardware The main reasons for the rapid costs (purchase or rental and

(42 hours standard) and a wil-

ingness to work long hours, the

unit labour cost is higher than

nomical (on a par with down-

maintenance) are considerably

greater and the costs of com-

munication are a not in-

In 1968, largely on my recom-

mendation, one of the world's

argest (US-based) airlines esta-

blished an application software

production unit in the colony. It

was closed down in 1971 because

the overall cost of the programs

written by Chinese program-

mers in Hong Kong was then

greater than those written by

American programmers on the Western seaboard of the States.

In the laisser-faire economy of

Hong Kong where government

regulation and interference is

set up a software company. This

may not be the case in other

possible locations. An attempt

by a mainframe manufacturer to

set up a software factory in

Singapore in 1964 was killed

stone dead by the intransigence

of the immigration department

there and a subsequent effort to

establish one in India was frust-

rated by the dead hand of the

cumbersome Indian bureau-

cracy. The computer Press has

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inimal, it would be very easy to

significant element.

increase in computer utilisation there over the past 11 years was the rapid economic and social expansion which started in 1968 in the wake of the cultural revolution of 1967 combined with a shortage of skilled staff and the inability of the existing mechanisms to handle the escalating amount of work generated by this expansion (eg a 12 fold increase in the number of examination papers over a two-year period from 1968 to 1970). While the high quality of Chinese programmers did contribute to the rapid expansion in computerisation, the grave shortage of quality experienced staff actually inhibited develop-

I would agree with Lee Tate and Richard Wilstead that, on the whole, Chinese programmers are excellent but, before Alex d'Agapeyeff el al pack their bags and hot foot it to Hong Kong, let me sound a cautionary note about the feasibility of esblishing a software developnent presence there.

Costs are much higher in ilong Kong than in the UK. Programmers' salaries are high, ssible higher rate of produc- recently reported that ICL and

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Systime are considering subcontracting software develop-ment to India. These moves led Jim Donaldson, president of CSA, to comment that CSA did not have a protectionist view of its market and could not object to firms taking advantage of programming rates abroad. I don't think that Jim or his CSA members have much to worry about on this score.

My own recent experiences have led me to believe that the costs of programming in the UK

Language translator arrives

Lexicon LK-3000 pocket-sized language translator (CW, translation on its one-line dis-February 1). It provides, for about £159, limited translation can be used is limited. from English into languages such as Spanish, Greek, French and German. Stock phrases are

before the machine can give a Pre-programmed plug-in

quently, there is an excellent

market for the UK software in

dustry in the production of soft-

ware in the UK for Western

European, American, Japanese

and Middle East organisations

(hardware manufacturers, soft-

Of the developing nations

only in India are the necessary

manpower resources and facil

ities available and costs lower

but the advantages could well be

offset by the inherent difficulties

G. B. THOMSON

of Indian operations.

CAP (UK) Ltd.

ware houses and end users).

modules store the various

US small firms go for IBM-compatible market

panies all keen to get a share of the action.

The market leaders and pion-eers are Amdahi Corp and \tel.

Amdahi'a 470V/5 to V/8 line covera IBM from the 370/158 to way beyond the 3033, while Itel's AS series goes from the 4341 to the 3032, with an attached processor option which approaches the power of the

competing in the middle and low end of the mainframe market. Two Pi and National Semicon

ductor each produce a bit-slice machine with minicomputer rchitecture and performance architecture and performance comparable with that of the 370/138. Kardios offers the Duo 70, based on the interdate 7/32, and Duo 80, based on the 8/32, and matching the 370/138 and 148 respectively.

The forthcoming offerings from Combridge Monage expects the comparable of the second

The forthcoming offerings from Cambridge Memories are also mini-type machines; called the CM-100/1, 2, and 3, they match the 370/115, 125 and 138.

The Magnuson M80/32 matches the 370/148 and the M80/42 and /43 cover the 4341.

Sors, which can simultaneously link to several instruction processor, and a supervisory processor which controls the operation of the whole complex.

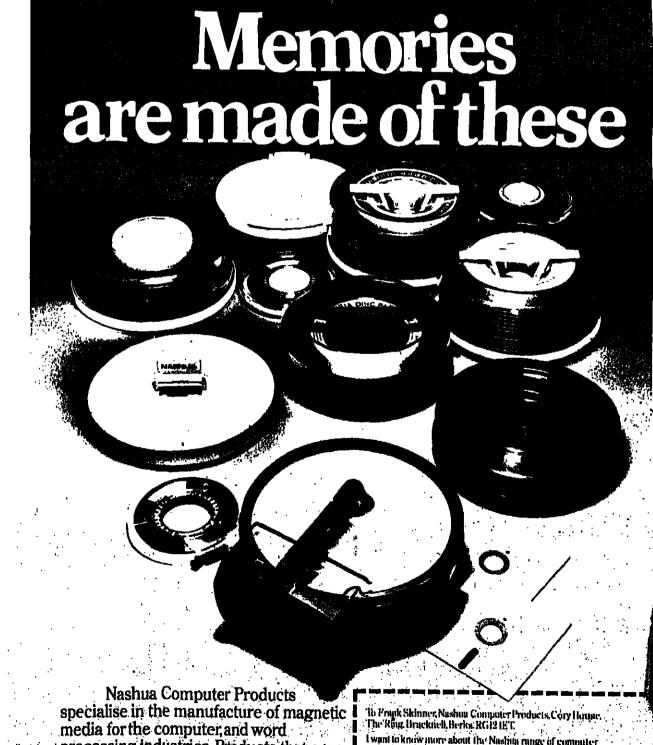
Citel is planning to cover the power range of the 138 to 3033, but is atill in the start-up phase.

ture of the commercial computer industry is based on IBM-compatible software has caused a blosseming of small US com-ture basic modules can be a support of the same basic modules can be a support of the same basic modules can be a support of the same basic modules can be a support of the same basic modules as the same basic modules are the same basic modules as the same basic modules are mixed and metched to configure a wide variety of different machines, theoretically with in-

IPL Systems makes the Omega 480s marketed in the US by Con-trol Data. They have unibus architecture, which makes them field-upgradable through the line The 480-i matches the 138, the 480-II the 148 and the 480-III th

the VMX200 and the 14B with the VMX400; the machines are a complex of processing unity The main memory is central to the aystem, and is surrounded by several "execution processors", each of which can be microcoded

The complex is completed with one or more input-output processors, which can simultaneously



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system is giving you the per- performance measurement has been investigating the small systems. In a second formance it should? Many techniques in order to gain value of performance meas- article, to be published next users are deciding they can no greater control over their urement, and in this article week, he will report the ex-

reviews the options open to periences of users.

ARE you sure your computer granted, and are turning to NICHOLAS ENTICKNAP managers of both large and

One of the Tesdata range of

hardware monitors is picturel above. Named the MS88, it on

nearly £150,000 and has 144

First, they are much chape,

with a basic of investment of

typically £10,000 a throw

compared with slightly month

the most basic of hardware

monitors, and 10 times that for

Secondly, the data they pro-

vide is more readily comme-

hensible, or, put another way.

requires less interpretation. You

are measuring not just occur-

rences of phenomena, but get-

and job concerned.

throughput.

ting answers relating to the file

As against those advantages

a software monitor, by virtued

sitting in the system, does in

impose an overhead on the St

tem's performance, which has

be taken into account and in the

past was a major disadvantage

because of its impact &

This is less of a problem to

when main memory is mea...

in Megabytes, and the der-

tion experienced has dwints

in the case of for example the

systems, to insignificant prop"

Another disadvantage is the

software monitors, unlike app

cations packages, are very de

pendent on the operating syster

and very vulnerable to change manufacturer may make in

On the other hand, a software

ket, you can feel confident that

IBM users. Users of other equip

it are sensible

really sophisticated system.

Is your performance up to scratch?

is on the increase. Languid programmers, tired DPMs and verbal Casanovas need not take fright at this chilling Orwellian pronouncement: for it is not numan beings but computers that are coming under ever greater scrutiny

in general, the performance of computers has hitherto been taken for granted — as long as they have continued to churn out reams of paper and miles of

The computer manufacturers hemselves have been largely responsible for this; the more inefficient a computer is, the more memory, discs and so on it will need, and the more revenue the manufacturer gets.

Users have accepted this. relying on their own gut feelings. to tell them if anything is drastically wrong with the way their

It has proved a good working principle and, as ignorance equals bliss, who cares about 10% in efficiency when the system is doing all its owner requires of it?

Talk to performance measurement consultants, however, and you will find that a mere 10% efficiency is by no means always the case. I was told of one installation, which had three processors, where 60% of the jobs required re-running for one reason or another. Both the DPM and the operations manager were quite happy with this state

of affairs. But there are a number of reasons why performance measurement is attracting greater interest today, and why installations which are not yet in the swim should give some thought to what they might get out of it. reduction in hardware costs, it is more or less an axiom of computer usage that the total cost

Staff costs of course are rising at a rate at least equal to the rate of inflation (recent surveys suggest it may be more) the number of transactions being handled by each application expands as the business does, and the number of applications Itself steadily increases.

All of this means that many organisations now have a very sizeable investment in computers. An installation which has a hardware value reckoned in seven figures is not that uncommon. And even 10% of seven figures is a saving well worth trying to achieve. There are of course corresponding cash flow benefits to be had.

Computer systems are not only growing in value. They are also getting much more complex, and therefore more difficult to monitor by instinct alone. The advent of data communications and database management systems makes efficiency much

more difficult to determine. Then again, the very pace of levelopment is a complicating factor. IBM has upset the applecart twice in the past two years with the announcement first of the 303X series and then of the E series, both of which have substantially altered accepted views of what you can expect in the way of cost-performance.

To understand what is needed, what is desirable and to make sensible plans for future growth, it is vital to have a clearer understanding of what exactly the present system is doing.
All of these factors combine to

emphasise the importance of

range may give an idea of the

much-vaunted continuing to reduce his dependence on outside factors such as the activities of IBM, or simply the pressures his friendly neighbourhood salesman is imposing on him, the DPM needs more information about what his computer is actually doing. Performance measurement is a way

of getting this information. It should be noted that this is essentially managerial rather than technical motivation. This s borne out by the experience of Scott Yasler, president of the European Computer Measurement Association (Econia) who has observed a steady increase in management delegates at the Association's regular con-

Yasler also points to a growth in Interest in performance measurement by corporate auditors, whose objective is to ensure that the company's money is being well spent. An auditing group of the Association was formed about a year ago and has flourished since.

This is a far cry from the days not so long ago when performance measurement was the province of boffins, and the tools simply toys that management gave them to play with in a bid to keep them quiet.

Nowadays the emphasis is very much on the financial benefits to be gained from postponing upgrades or simply from avolding expensive mistakes. The earlier references to data

communications and database systems may have put off the user of smaller and less ambitious systems, but the principles apply just as much to him. Obviously, the more expen-

sive the installation the easier it is to justify the cost of measurement tools and the staff to run

smaller the configuration the diagnosis of problems. less information you need to

maintain control. team of performance measurement specialists, estimates that the effort you need to make costs proportionately the same, whatever the size of the instal-

volved in the cost of any tools with the actual results. that are purchased and of the proprietary product, he recomare carried out.

First, he says, you should system is up, as a proportion of scheduled up-time. Then you between useful and non-useful

in this context development work counts as useful; nonuseful work means runs that failed, etc. Finally, you should make some sort of continuous assessment of throughput.

How this is done depends very much on the type of workload. A good rule of thumb, says Lankey, is to measure jobs done per hour. A better measure is the amount of user CPU time, if this can be obtained.

needed in interpreting the findings.

These basic measurements require an investment solely of staff time. For that you get a software monitors. According to better understanding of how the Scott Yasler, these are incomputer is performing, earlier creasing in popularity compared warning of the build-up of with hardware monitors, and pressures, and information there are a number of reasons

Staff time is of course always at a premium, and performance David Lankey, one of Logica's measurement activity tends to get postponed when more mmediate problems arise.

Lankey also recommends that, when installing a new application, it is worth going through the arithmetic to calcu-He concedes that there is a late what the theoretical run certain minimum overhead in- time should be, and comparing it

The two figures are unlikely staff time involved. But even for to be the same, for reasons the user who does not feel he can relating to the design of the projustify the investment in any gram, the role of the operating system and so on, but if there is a mends that certain basic tasks large discrepancy it is a sign of

The move to more sophistimeasure the amount of time the cated techniques is best preceded by a visit to a consultancy, unless the installation has should keep track of the ratio staff with experience gathered In practice, consultants are

usually called in either because the installation is undergoing a crisis and needs baling out fast or because a major decision point has been reached, and a second opinion is required to counter-balance the view of the hardware vendor.

In the process they will use special tools known as hardware and software monitors.

The objective is to find out how effectively the resources o Whatever the measure, there the system are being used, a task are likely to be massive varia- which involves analytical and tions day by day, week by week interpretative skills as well as and month by month, so care is the appropriate equipment, which is why professional help is desirable for the beginner.

monitor requires less expenie to use; basically you just loadit And unless it is new on the my Let us look at these tools in a bit more detail, starting with

ment will either have to maked with packages provided by the supplier, or set to and write the lar user should adopt will de-A good example of the kind pend on his configuration and his circumstances, with the if you can't see an advantage

product that is available is my vided by CPP, which marked range of packages developed to the US contact and the US company Boole and Basin bage for IBM users, These products include (%)

designed to measure what the CPU is doing, now channels are and so on: The intended to pinpoint where the CPU time is going, so that the user can save CPU cycles at the DSO which looks at distingtion. reader may also like to contact movement activity with a the only body in Europe which to enabling the re-ordering data sets so as to minimise

movement These products are all signed for use under 05: 1.

MVS users CPP has announced CMF, which is similar to the cMF, which is similar had but differs from it in had be real time option, allowing see what's going on minute rather than walding the historical special seems.

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the results you are getting from There are a number start July. Lto 160 p.w. nett. Call now for further Details. manufacturers which sell soft. ware monitors, though it should be said that most of them are for

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MIDDX.

MOVING onto hardware monitors, these are devices which measure electronic activity taking place in the system, by means of probes, and then report it in some way or another. the user knows what he is mea-

suring - in other words, where this purpose under the name around £40,000. to put the probes - before he an make anv Given this expertise, a hardware monitor is more flexible

rather than what has been pre-The expertise, however, is again: "A good analyst can use u chap could get from a £100,000

There are only two suppliers f hardware monitors in Europe, Comten and Tesdata. Comton is the older — it holds several basic currency at today's exchange. oatents — but until recently has rate.) not been very active in Europe. Tesdata's range starts with with no less than 144 probes, and consequently has much the MS32, a minicomputer enabling you to measure and smaller market share.

Dynapar. Tesdata's equipment is based on Interdata minicomputers, and therefore is more expensive; on the other hand, it will do than a software monitor, as you more. A comparison of the basic can measure whatever you like systems in each company's

critical; to quote Bytheway Comten's basic system is the 8016, which performs 16 basic Elb.000 monitor and get 65% of time and count functions, and the information the average records the collected data on magnetic tape for subsequent mainframe processing. This costs about \$25,000. (Comten's list price is in dollars: translate into pounds or whatever is your

based system equipped with and trunsport, and relying on DECwriter for printing the anasimulator for IBM machines has UK.

pany, BGS Systems inc in the ment Association, Scheuzersimulator for IBM machines has UK.

itself supplies the software for at the same time. Prices start at

Users must know

what to measure

In general, however, hardware monitors are becoming the province of the big installation, and both Tesdata and Comten talk most enthusiastically about designed for users who wish to undertake in-depth analysis on a egular basis and maintain a

itabase of past results. This is in harmony with the general trend away from troubleshooting towards capacity planning, away from finding out where you are towards estimating where you're going

Tesdata's top-end offering. the MS88, can set you back nearly £150,000, and even a basic system costs £85,000. It comes

eaormous amount of informa- keted through his own com-tion at the same time. hanv. BGS Systems line in the

It is essential, therefore, that of the data collected. Comten record and analyse, but not both longer marketed but is still

has now been pioneered by the their top-end systems, which are what that involves is the appliplines to computing.

much higher level of that much less data needs to be collected. How much less is up to

ferent parameters to determine which are the most critical.

maintained for a small number don't do it. If you can, an initial

cation of queueing theory disci-The advantage of this devotes itself to performance approach is that it permits a approximation, which means

The run time is also less (of the order of a few minutes instead of a few hours) which means that interactive modelling can be done, testing out various dif-

of users by the US company, cautious exploratory approach will usually be best. A good start is to contact some other users. In a follow-up American, Jeffrey Buzen. He article we shall report the excalls it operational analysis, and periences of a cross-section of users we have contacted. The

> This is the European Computer Measurement Association Ecoma. It holds regular conferences at which all aspects of performance measurement are discussed, the next one-being

held in Paris in early October. Readers who are interested i this event, or in the Association generally, should contact Nick Kenyon of Logica, at his office in Little Portland Street, London Buzen's techniques are mar. WI, or Scott Yasler, the European Computer Measure

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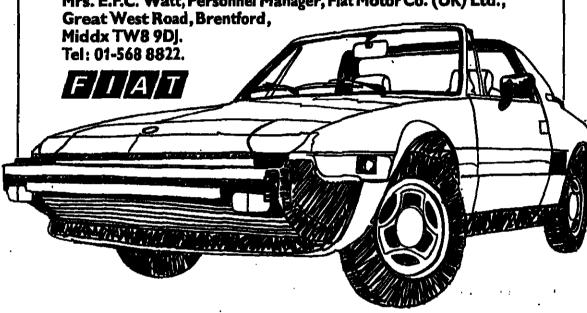
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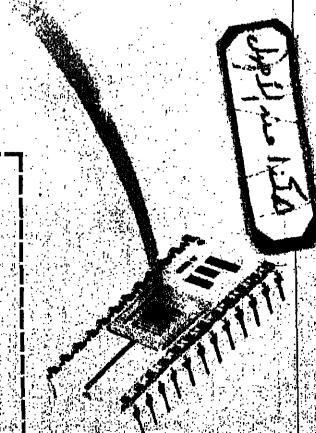
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The minimum requirement is 18 months' systems experience gained on any hardware. A programming background would be useful although not essential, The Company offers a very good starting salary together with extremely good fringe benefits including a 4 % MORTGAGE, BONUS, FREE LUNCH, season ticket loans, non-contributory pension etc.

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS

City to £7000 A major finance company based in the City wishes to recruit additional staff to work on the development of new projects for their expanding IBM 370 system. The individuals they are seeking will have at least two years Analysis and must have implemented one major. system. Any knowledge of CICS or PL1 would be a

distinct advantage.
In addition to a highly competitive starting salary the company offers an attractive banefits package and excellent working conditions.

01.439.7871

Reference BP22/11

A large International Organisation based in an easily accessible part of N.W. Kent is currently looking for staff at various levels for their expanding technical support department. A minimum of 1 years operating or data control experience is required, preferably with some IBM OS JCL knowledge, although this is not

OPERATIONS SUPPORT

The installation is linked via a Data 100 network to a large 370/158 running under OS/VS1. The technical support department operates a flexitime system and therefore this is an ideal opportunity for operators to move from shift work into an interesting and demanding days only position.

There is a recognised company career path which includes the possibility of moving into programming in the future. Excellent staff benefits include discount on a wide range of products, staff restaurant, and an active sports and social club, one of the amenities being a swimming pool on site.

01.439.7871

Reference MH 22/5

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West End

to £5500 + Mortgage

A leading commercial organisation with an expanding 370/135 installation in the West End is seeking a number of PL1 programmers to work on a variety of

new and existing projects.

The positions are ideal for enterprising young programmers with at least twelve months experience on IBM Hardware. A knowledge of OS/VS1, sithough not essential, would be a distinct advantage. The company offers a first class salary, and fringe benefits include Flextime, Season Ticket Loans, and a Subsidised Mortgage. Reference BP 22/6

COBOL ANALYST/PROGRAMMERS

C. London

One of the country's largest retail organisations is seeking several people with a COBOL background, but with an interest in other languages. They use a 370/145 & have development projects for a 3031 in COBOL, ASSEMBLER & DL1, & you will need around 18 MONTHS or more in any of these

Any Analysis or D/B experience would be helpful; however, training will be provided, making this an ideal opportunity to diversify your career. 01.439.7871

Reference BP 22/7

Datascene International Ltd. Telex: 25851 Sceptre House 169-173 Regent Street 01-439 1856 London WIR 7FB

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REQUIRED IN THE MIDLANDS

Assembler language or ICL System Ten experience

Earnings £6,000-£7,000 p.a. plus company

Telephone: 021-454 6058 Birmingham B16 8TP



PROGRAMMER A vecancy has arison within the computer department of multiple shoe retailer with 200 branches, for a passes with a lollowing qualifications. Honeywelf Cobel (CD) the following qualifications where the communications with emphasis of stock compact of the communications with emphasis of stock compact and the communications and data is and a stock of the communications and data is and data and the communications and data is and data.

SENIOR ANALYST

BUSINESS SYSTEMS SALES

ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

MINI or MICRO

SYSTEMS ANALYST

PROJECT LEADER

SYSTEMS ANALYST

ANALYST/PROGS.

PROGRAMMERS

ANALYST

ANALYST

AMES

Applicants most have sales experience present that is another transfer and humaness systems although Analysi / Programmen values as support experience will be considered N. SURREY

Small business systems or manufacturing environment experience a district advantage. Location London Wi rolocuting to N. SURREY

PROGRAMMER/ANALYST C. £5,500

A commercial organisation with an ICL 2960 DME making COBOL requires people with a minimum of 2 year expensence to join a frientilly DP team in London, W1.

bove staff are required to make positive contributors to overlopment work in a large DP installation based in it.

SENIOR PROGRAMMER/ To £6.500

A British subsidiary of a major European company with wide connections is seeking a Programmer/Analysi with COBOL Experience, and management ability. The installation is an IBM 370/158. Location SW LONDON

A prestigious company with world wide operations is setting young Systems Analyst to design and implement production/accounting applications A year's analysis reperion or Analyst/Programmer experience is essential S.W. LONDON

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It you are interested in any of the above posters, pleas telephone for an application form. Alternatively it you are seeking a position in an area we have not listed above, pleas telephone for details.

Employment Agency Suite 14 Dryden Chambers, 119.Oxford Street, Landon, Wilk IPA Tel. 01 434 106

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Up to £5018 (incl. shift pay)

A vacancy exists for a suitably experienced operation of operations team running a 2 shift ICL 2960 under both VME zB (including 1 P.) and DME zS4.

Operators with a least 2 years' expensive under eiter VME / B or System 4 J Ervel could had this a said opportunity to further their career towards shift management to an expension and progressive environment.

Application form from the Chief Executive, 50 Wooking New Road, London SE18 8HO (Tel. 01-854 8883, bt. 2024)

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at all levels. Communications and data passes would be an advantage.
The department at present runs a Heneywell 64.15 at Almay OCR machine, and offers job shiftfelier. Working condutions and competitive selety. Applications in writing or telephone to:

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Data General Nova Algol & RDO's experience to work on Management information systems.

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RSXIIM systems programmer to work on a packet switch project and system inter-nals. Preferably knowledge of French. German or Dutch.

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Profesione Managaries

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Teleprocessing, writing functional and interface specifications.

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Banking experience. Project planning software documentation. Knowledge of COBOL. Preferably large mainframe exp.

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PDP Mumps exp. commercial applications 1 year project.

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Working on PDP II hardware. Expert knowledge of RSXIIM. To install RSXII at

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VMEB experience. 3/6 month projects.

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Level 6 expertise with T.PS: combined UK + USA project.

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DEC PDP using Fortran under RSXIIM: Traffic control project, 3 months' initial

Motorola 6800 with MPL Assembler 3

2. (San \$4. \$4. \$4.)。 医韧带线 统统

SYS 3/RPGII exp. commercial applications. Maintenance and development, 1 year + assignment. Fluent French.

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。2014年2月1日 · ADDENIA

Challenging position to install and co-ordinate D.P. department: Management exp essential.

的新少数/有关指导运动。 MOLLAID , WW Star.

PDP Programmers with TRAX exp transaction system, 3 months' initial on

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Ser Committee of

AMARINE TEXTS MOLLAM 医结膜样 的 20%。

Singer system 10 expertise is needed with stella package experience.

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14 MEMARY

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Small business systems experience. Preerably knowledge of low level protocols Initially 3 month contract.

Kn. of Protocols X25 HDLC exp of ... level protocols. Conversant at all leve:

But the

·美麗智斯, salas al salas sida

Implementation experience on mail machine interface via visual display.

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Knowledge of work processing systems and their functions.

MEW DEVILOPMENT 房间周围

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★ Discretionary bonus

PROBBAMBERS

+ Subsidised restaurant

* Contributory pension scheme

* Sports and social club — Subsidised bar!

Major group with subsidiary companies operating internationally and manufacturing a wide range of sophisticated industrial equipment has exciting future plans. Retaining IBM 370 hardware, they are currently installing CICS and have various projects planned including a major financial one. A mini computer is also being installed for a Midlands depot, with support from London.

Chief Systems Analysts is sought to work in capacity of PROJECT MANAGER and will be expected to have around 7 years D.P. experience in any environment, but with a good business acumen. ANALYSTS will have slightly less experience. PROGRAMMERS with 2-5 years IBM OS COBOL experience will have

opportunities to enhance their career.

Ref. 70%6

*FREE LUNCHES

*Contributory pension, free life assurance *NEW projects — NEW mainframe evaluation

* Easy access either by road or rail

A RARE OPPORTUNITY! Due to rapid growth within major group services division, there are now various openings for career-minded D.P. persons. Retaining ICL 1900 equipment, Co. has recently evaluated new hardware, has large this TOTAL DRAS. has large mini computer-based network and utilises TOTAL DBMS.

PROJECT LEADER: Successful candidate will have had 5 years' systems experience, a professional approach to project management and ability to communicate at all levels. He/she will have full responsibility and cover whole spectrum of project control.

PROGRAMMERS: Up to 5 years COBOL GII experience preferably using database. To assist in systems design, write program specs and lead programming teams. Prepare schedules and estimates,

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Get into banking! This major international bank has superb opportunities to

join an exciting environment with new development work. Our client retains an IBM 370 with major new hardware on order and offers TRAINING in CICS. They require a PROJECT LEADER with management qualities, good

communication skills and banking systems exp. preferably in foreign exchange or investments. The ANALYSTS are required to join NEW

PROJECTS in the initial stages of design. PROGRAMMERS with at least 2

years' COBOL are needed to work on many financial applications. For the

analysts and programmer all positions offer fantastic scope for learning new

★ Early promotion prospects

★ Co offers excellent trainign courses

★ Variety of work

Our client, an international communications group, has recently set up a second-major D.P. dept. It has been created to deal specifically with the business and financial areas. It has IBM 370 which runs under DOS and CICS will be used shortly. Company has exciting future plans and offers all new development work in stimulating international environment. Programmers with at least 18 months' COBOL (on any hardware) here is your opportunity to develop, with super prospects to get into systems analysis. 1 year's analysis experience with COBOL is all you need for the analyst programming positions. If you are a systems analyst with wide DP experience and good IBM background — PHONE NOW!

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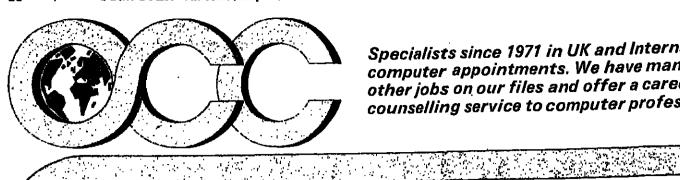
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Specialists since 1971 in UK and International computer appointments. We have many other jobs on our files and offer a career counselling service to computer professionals.

PARIS - LONDON

Our clients are a Multinational company with corporate offices in Paris and an established company in London.

The following vacancies are available.

PARIS Analyst/Programmer 80,000 - 90,000

We are looking for one, or possibly two experienced persons with a mini Real Time Systems background in commercial applications to work on new application projects. Candidates must be self motivated and able to work on their own. A basic knowledge of French, sufficient to read documentation and to communicate with the French teams is also required. Ref: 511/CW/RN.

LONDON

francs p.a.

Analyst/Programmer £5,000 -£7,000 p.a.

The London vacancy could be filled by a less experienced person with a minimum of two years Real-Time mini programming. **Ref: 512/CW/RN**.

For all vacancies a knowledge of Hewlett Packard 3000 or PDPH systems will be a distinct advantage as would previous experience on accounts or shipping

For an informal discussion or to apply for any of the above vacancies, please ring Renée Nute on (day) 01-242 9356 or (evenings and weekends) on 01-874 6372.

OCC Computer Personnal Limited, 16 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EB



MINI **COMPUTER MANAGER**

Salary £8000 c. Plus car

A substantial marketing orientated company based in Essex is seeking a first class computer professional to develop, manage and implement substantial changes to its

The brief will involve choosing a new computer and creating a small team of specialists and to develop and implement new systems for the 1980s.

The right candidate (male /female) will need a creative and hard working mind. Please respond in writing to the Managing Director, H C Marshall, Nor Systems Limited, Valley Road, Harwich, Essex CO12 4RR.





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Intersia leading manufacturer of IRM pluq compatible memories requires additional engineers for ils expanding European support

Sulfable condidates will have considerable. m-depth experience of majatalismy mainframes and will preferably be trained to specialist level on an IBA1C, P.O. or related plug compatible

Successful applicants will be working mainly from home as a base. They will be prepared to travel to any part of Europe in order to support.

Proven ability will be well rewarded along with excellent fringe benefits.

Computer **Operator**

23.900 - £4,300 (currently under review)

BICC, a major Butish group with over 100 sites both at home and abroad, are seeking a Computer Operator (male termale) for our Regional Computer Contre based at Wallington, near Croydon.

The centro, which provides a DP service to the Group's member companies is equipped with an ICL 2903 with data communications facilifies operating on a 2 shift system

Ideally candidates should have at least 12m operating experience on a 1900 series installation

commensurate with a large multi-national compan

Regional Controller Wallington, Surrey SM6 7EH. Tel: 01-669 4477 Ext. 329





If you thinking of doing contract work why not start here by registering now for immediate and forthcoming requirements.

For further details contact: Bridget Kotchie

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REAL-TIME MINI SOFTWARE SPECIALISTS £6,000-£9,000

The Company possesses its own PD in-house for software development. Applicants should have a sound kn experience of at least one mini-con write to or telephone Mr. J. Jarvis

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> £10K+ APPOINTMENTS pages begin June /

Ring Eddie Farrell 01-261 8097

MYRIAD

HOLLAND

An expanding data processing department in AMSTERDAM wishes to recruit U.K. expertise to strengthen their project teams developing a variety of commercial systems on IBM 370 equipment. The department is also responsible for implementing international systems and providing extensive user training in relevant areas.

ANALYSTS.

PROGRAMMERS

To £15,000

To £10,000

- GOOD EDUCATION
- 2 YEARS' PROGRAMMING
- 1 YEAR + IN ANALYSIS
- IMPLEMENTED ONE MAJOR SYSTEM **★ FINANCIAL/ACCOUNTING EXPERIENCE**
- COBOL 1 YEAR +
- PREFERABLY IBM OS
- COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS
- GOOD BASIC EDUCATION

Salaries will be commensurate with experience and FULL ACCOMMODATION will be provided during the first two years

Our client is renowned throughout the world for its products and is by far the market leader in a very specialised field. These vacancies offer U.K. personnel an exciting opportunity to enjoy the high standard of living in Amsterdam and be ideally situated for visiting other European countries.

REF, S1/3105/CW

ANY COMMERCIAL LANGUAGE

N.W. LONDON

Exciting opportunities have arisen in our clients installation for experienced Senior Analyst/Programmers and Analyst/ Programmers to play a major role in the company's continued

The installation comprises a medium range IBM computer and RPGII will be used for all the new systems to be developed, many of which will be on-line. Ideal applicants will be able to offer a minimum two years' business experience having used ANY COMMERCIAL LANGUAGE and possess the potential to progress within an expanding organisation.

Successful candidates will be given formal training where necessary, after which they will join teams developing sophisticated systems ranging from warehousing and distribution to management information using the latest techniques and conjugate applicants opportunity and conjugate opportunity opportunity. ques and equipment. For more experienced applicants opportunities exist to lead projects.

In addition to the career progression available a range of company benefits make these exceptional opportunities. Ref. N1/3105

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Two first-class career opportunities have now arisen within the U.K. division of an American based computer manufacturer, currently extending and enhancing software for its very successful range of computers.

The people appointed will be given responsibility for the development of software in one of the major product groups and will work in small self-motivating teams utilising on-line programming and dedicated hardware facilities.

Applicants will need to demonstrate a sound assembler level mainframe or mini computer background, ideally combined with data management methods and operating systems experience and should possess a progressive and innovative approach to software development.

In line with the very competitive starting salary the company is able to offer a very pleasant working environment and alk the usual benefits associated with a successful business

MYRIAD APPOINTMENTS LIMITED

NWL/3105

30 Fleet Street London EC4Y IAA

01-353-0981



*Automation

Contact: Margaret Stevens

Communications & Control Systems

This client is fast building an unsurpassed reputation for the excellence of its

technical ability and expertise in the development of advanced systems and

There is access to a wide range of mini and micro machines in-house, such as

*Message and line Switching *Data Communications

Ideal experience would be of Real-Time mini and micro environments and

FORTRAN or CORAL is a distinct advantage. In general, however, drive, intelligence and adaptability are more important than specific machine technique or applications experience.

Contact: Margaret St.

Communications Programmers

We have been requested by our client, part of a well-known computer

over a network. Knowledge of the standard protocols and switching

manufacturer, to recruit several programmers to participate in the develop-

Applicants must have several years experience in programming with the last

two spent implementing software for systems where data is being transmitted

Assembler programming. Some knowledge of high level languages such as

PDPH'S, NOVA 3, HP1000, micro NOVA, INT'EL and ZILOG, providing an

ideal "workshop" for those who enjoy a hands-on environment

Projects to be staffed fall in to the following broad categories:-

*Command and control

ment of communications and network systems.

techniques would be an added advantage. Excellent salaries for the right experience.

software. They require a number of high-calibre technical staff to augment their team, in order to undertake the increasing volume of new orders for

We're successful because our staff are

Data Logic operates at the forefront of computing, applying the very latest hardware and techniques to practical commercial problems. We cover the range from mainframes to the smallest computers. We are leaders in the use of microprocessors for applications that not so long ago required far larger machines.

Many of the systems we supply go far beyond providing extra speed and cost savings. They will revolutionise the way the user organisations operate. Several projects involve dispersed networks of ten or more minicomputers. Our largest turnkey system incorporates twenty-three machines and close to three hundred display terminals across the country - a totally new system which will serve almost every function within a leading company. A new police contract involves the first use in the UK of a mini for a complex data retrieval

application — with our own advanced methods for rapid, generalised record searches.

The exceptional scope and quality of work is important to our staff. We can match their individual experience to their projects. Equally, we can ensure that each project adds to their experience. As computing itself develops, so do they.

Over the past year Data Logic has grown dramatically in size, in scope of work and in reputation. Our expansion has meant unrivalled opportunities for career progression. We are not prepared to promote people before they are ready for it. But when they are ready — and we give all the assistance we can — the positions as senior programmer, senior analyst, project manager and consultant will be there waiting for them.

The reason is simple. We know that we are successful only if our staff are.

Senior Software Staff

(Ref PS/01) For mainframe, minicomputer and mixed processor systems, usually supporting terminal networks. Increasingly Data Logic's turnkey projects involve minicomputers at multiple sites.

Applicants must have at least five years experience including some work in consultancy, system design or team management. Substantial knowledge is required of either high level language implementation on a leading mainframe or assembler language development on DEC, Data General or other leading minicomputers. We are especially interested

- in experience of: database systems
- distributed systems
- data communications telemetry
- operating systems design and implementation.

Salaries will be highly competitive and a company car is provided to staff at senior team leader level or above.

There are vacancies at our Greenford, Birmingham and Manchester offices.

Programmers

(Ref PS/02) For both mainframe and minicomputer projects which include commercial applications, monitoring and control, and scientific analysis.

Applicants should have at least three years programming and/or analysis experience in high-level language or assembler on any leading mainframe or minicomputer.

This is an outstanding opportunity to gain experience in the development of complex high performance software, Our programmers work in small teams, taking considerable responsibility for distinct areas of the total system.

Salaries will be highly competitive. Vacancies exist at our Greenford, Birmingham and Manchester offices. Write or call, quoting the appropriate reference number: Kathy Martin Data Logic Limited 29 Marylebone Road London NW1 01-486 7288 A Raytheon Company

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JBA

Operating Systems Specialists

Immediate vacancies exist for consultants who have considerable experience of information transmission systems, such as Prestel, Viewdata, etc. Data communications expertise and database knowledge is vital to the positions, particularly where concerned with large mainframes and front-end processors. A user contact background is desirable.

Our client is one of the largest consultancy organisations in the world with over 3,000 employees. On this solid foundation, the company offer real upmarket remuneration packages and excellent relocation assistance. Further, the prospects of continuation of projects at very senior levels in a worldwide market place is virtually second to none. Contact: Mike Creamer

Senior Systems Analyst

up to £8,400 + mortgage + benefits This is a senior position combining project control and technical management

of analysts and programmers engaged on vital work within a rapidly developing insurance company. With the installation of a database and TP system the position will offer tremondous opportunities for a senior analyst to diversify and expand technical experience.

Applicants must be from a business COBOL applications environment, having preferably come up through the ranks to a leadership position, and be looking for a job with more responsibility and prospects. Immediate interviews will be arranged for suitable candidates.

Tremendous employment and relocation package is offered, effectively increasing the base salary to a surprising level. Contact: Mike Creamer

For further information on any of the above vacancies, please contact the appropriate consultant.

If your qualifications do not match the above positions but you are seeking other opportunities please contact us anyway.

JAMES BAKER ASSOCIATES, International Personnel Consultants, 16 Maddox Street, London W.1. Tel: 01-491 4478

GERMANY

£20,000 - £30,000

Several of our clients still seek operating systems expertise, preferably with a variety of machines, viz IBM, DEC, UNIVAC, CDC, etc. Work involves the design, program, test and installation of virtual machine operating systems and support software. The ability to design and implement software for an OS/MVS - type operating system is particularly desirable. Programming is in assembler and high level operating systems languages. JBA would like to talk to anyone involved with operating systems, even postgraduates involved in research or similar.

Prestel/Viewdata Specialists

from £20,000

Systems Analyst

Berkshire

software development

Contact: Jim Baker

We have been retained by a chemical processing organisation, a leader in high technology, to recruit a Systems Analyst to work on the development of technical d.p. applications. Candidates should have a good degree, preferably in the sciences, followed by about five years in a computer development environment. Since the work includes program specification a background of programming would be an asset. Current projects include the collection and analysis of specialised data, mainframe and mini-computer systems. This is a positive opportunity to live in delightful countryside and work on

sophisticated applications. Excellent salary and benefits including relocation

We're looking for . . .

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almer Jeans is one of this country's most successful manufacturers of lesure wear, and as part of our continued programme of expansion we have the following vacancies in our newly-established computer department based in Rayleigh, Essax.

2 PROGRAMMER ANALYSTS

c £5,000 p.a.

A Burroughs B1830 is currently being installed to handle all applications from Order Processing through Production Planning, Stock Control and Accounting. We now require two Programmers to design and implement the next phases of this development which will involve a considerable amount of liaison with user departments.

systems will use the latest developments in on-line data base techniques using Cobol as the application language. Suitable experience in all these areas will naturally be an advantage.

COMPUTER OPERATOR/ TRAINEE PROGRAMMER

c £3,500 p.a. (No Shifts)

for this position we require a young person with the experience and technical shifts. schnical ability to exploit the potential of a sophisticated on-line computer system. It is planned that full training on Burroughs hardware will be given, leading on to further courses covering Cobol programming and database techniques.

For further details contact: Adrian Cubitt Telephone No: RAYLEIGH (0268) 773633

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Please contact Will motts, 01-743 4444. Ref. TMHM for further

DATA ACQUISITION AND CONTROL

phications are invited from suitably abiled captilidates for the temporary sit of RSEARCH OFFICER in the over Department. The Department is ormatized to the continued develop-ant of computer based receiveds for all time work in feliciting and research well as internative and batch compu-tion. The successful candidate with beas vere as inspective and partic compiletion. The subcessiul condidate was be equired to assist in support of project working both the design of hardware and activers for an integrated system for the Department and also as ordinating with other related activities in the University. A good deal of the activities by the now have been on minkomputers using computing equipant from Detat General. Digital Equipant and IBM but it is enkelpated that micropropersor hased systems will be made the detail of the control of the particular activities will be planned expansion. The appointment will be made this effect from 10 crobes 19 79 for a load parted of three years.
Salary at an appropriate point on the A scale for Released, and Analogous hat (24232-12145) juridar reviews.

Computer Shift Operator for ICL System 10

for Pershke Price Service Organisation Limited, sole U.K. agents for many of the leading German print and print origination equipment manufacturers, including some of the latest computer controlled separation and photo-composition systems.

You will be working on your own on a shift system that does not include night work, operating our ICL System 10 which is used for a variety of

Salary up to national average, excellent benefits including subsidised canteen and sports and social club.

For an application form just contact the Personnel Manager, Pershke Price Service Organisation Limited, Dover House, 141 Morden Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 4X6. Tel. 01-648 7090.



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ICI are looking for two experienced RJE operators to work a two shift system in the busy computer terminal at Head

The successful candidates will each be in charge of RJE operations on a large new CMC Sovereign System now being commissioned. This is an ideal opportunity for them to gain a detailed knowledge of equipment capable of communicating with a number of large.

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Computer Operator

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To operate, on a 2-shift system, a 192K 1904S running Indor the GEORGE 3 operating system. He/ahe must have it loast 18 months' experience, have common sense. at least 18 months experience, have common sense, initiative and a willingness to play a full part in operating present and future applications. In September 1979, the Authority will be taking delivery of a 2960/72 system operating under DME and VME/B. Conditions of service include 35-hour week; 22 days annual leave plus 10 statutory days; staff restaurant; season-ticket scheme.

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THE PERSON

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Expansion of the European organisation and resultant internal reurganisation has created a requirement for a senior manager within our European Customer Service Division. This is a key position requiring a atrong manager capable of establishing operating procedures and reporting machanisms to run a multi million pound field service organisation. This involves local field service, national support, depot repair and customer service acceptance activities across several European countries. The role will be Wokingham based but will involve some (ravel to Europe and कर hoadquarters in Florida.

kleal candidales will probably already be experienced in running a held survice organisation in a systems house or manufacturar of processors or peripherals. Essontially he/sha must have the potential to thow with the organisation.

Sales Manager, Scandinavia

Modcome intends to establish a direct sales operation in Swade tluring 1979. We need a highly competent Sales Manager to be actively involved in setting up the new office and to spearhead the expansion of our existing sales market. This involves the support and development of existing OEM's as well as the identification of new OEM and major end-users throughout Sweden, Finland and

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ncreased sales activity. Increased client base means we head a Customer Service Manager to work closely with the Sales Manager to ensure a successful operation in Spandinavia. Specifically he will be reappusible for the development and organisation of all service. department functions, both hardware and software. This will also involve determining terms of business for marketing service ons assubacong gnitrocopy gnineitderse, apitylitas treamment cloping training programmes for dilents and own staff. This individual must be capable of working on own initiative and currently will already hold a senior supervisory role in a field sofvice environment. He'sho will be familiar with processors, controllers and portpherals, either mainframe or mint. Again fluency is rectulred in Swadian and a working knowledge of English also should be Duppered to move to the Stockholm ofer.

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Generous holidays, a contributory pension scheme with two range of benefits. Ideal working conditions, new officers: steff restaurant, in an attractive rural setting overlooky to County Town of Hertford, a range of sporting activity is:

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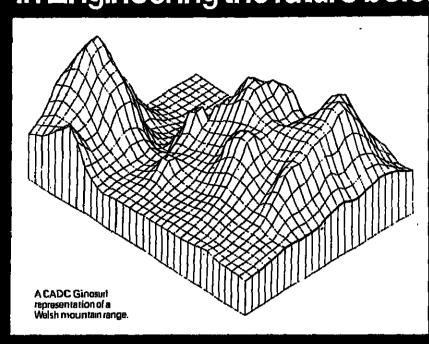
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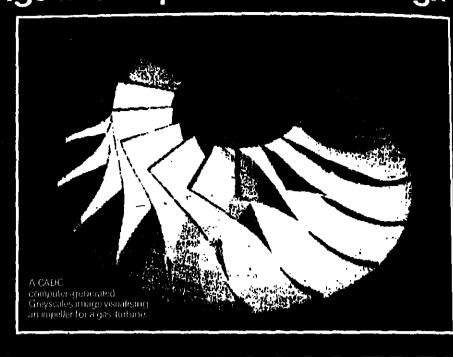
For further information please write or telephone Richard Newcombe, Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, International Audit; 2/3 Cursitor Street, London, EC4P 4BB, Telephone: 01-405-1955.

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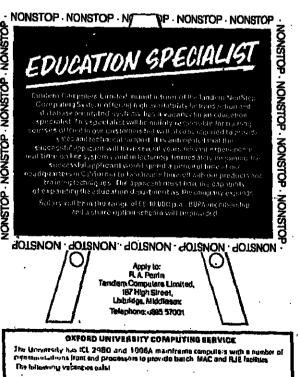
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Senior Systems Analyst

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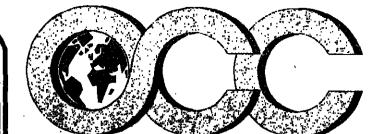
Our present systems run under GEORGE 2 on an OCL 1903T, with a subsidiary company in Holland using an IBM System 32. The market is changing rapidly and our systems must change to remain competitive. To this end we are investigating that use of micro-computers and micro-elect, and the techniques of distributed processing.

We need Processing

of micro-computers and micro-elect.

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Please ring Renée Nute on 01-242 9356 or write to the address quoted. If it would be more convenient to telephone in the evening or during the weekend please ring 01-874 6372.

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Applications are invited from graduates or professionally qualified persons for two posts in the University's Computing Leboratory which operates a large ICL 1904S Installation running under the George 3 Operating System and providing accentral, service for research and teaching within the University.

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In addition to earning attractive salaries, the successful applicants will be offered all the benefits usually associated with a large company.

CW 22/6 CHARLES THE THE PARTY OF THE PA

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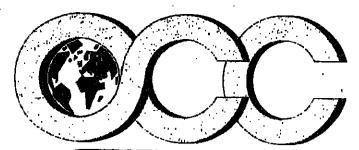
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PROGRAMMER FOR NIGERIA

A proven programmer, preferably with a banking background, is required for service in our associate company in Nigeria. Experience in ICL COBOL/PLAN and ICL 2900 Series Equipment essential.

Position in a small development team offers considerable challenge involving wide all round responsibilities. Plans include use of package developed in UK to transfer accounting to a 2904

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ICI Central Toxicology Laboratory

This laboratory provides advisory and experimental services to ICI Limited, for the control of toxic hazards in manufacturing processes and in other fields of growing importance, such as the development of pesticides and food additives. Emphasis is placed on improving and assessing methods for studying the biological effect of foreign compounds and upon understanding mechanisms of toxicity. The provision of toxicological information, prior to product clearance and registration in many countries, is a major activity undertaken by the Laboratory on behalf of the ICI Group.

Operations Controller Computer Services Group

The Central Toxicology Laboratory is introducing a data transfing scheme to slore and analyse the data generated by the toxicity tests it carries out for Divisions. The Job Holder will be responsible for the correct, secure operation of the system which is based on a Dala General M600 mini-computer. This will include the supervision of other operating staff. He/she will also be involved in the development of the operations environment of the new system and in the use of computer hardware throughout the Laboratory.

Candidates should have an engineering (or computer science or similar) degree (or equivalent), and/or previous working experience in a mini-computer environment with on-line systems. Supervisory and administrative experience and the ability to take decisions on system operating parameters quickly and clearly would be

You would be working two miles south of the village of Alderley Edge on the main road (A34) between Manchester and the Potteries on a 300 acre site which the Laboratory shares with ICl's Pharmaceuticals Division. Alderley Edge is less than 20 miles from Manchester and in addition to the well-wooded Cheshire countyside which surrounds it, Alderley is within easy reach of the Derbyshire Peak District, the Lake District and the North Wales Coast. Staff working at Alderley live over a wide area but mainly in the Macclesfield and Alderley Edge/Wilmslow area.

The salary for this vacancy is around £4400 plus a productivity bonus and there is a Profit Sharing Scheme. A contributory Pension Scheme is in operation and after joining, staff receive a reasonable refund of removal expenses.



Applicants, male and female, should telephone or write for an Application form to: Mr. Andrew Blain, Assistant Personnel Officer, Central Toxicology Laboratory, Imperial Chemical Industries Limited, Alderley Park, Nr. Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 4TJ. Telephone: Alderley Edge (0625) 582711. Please quote Ref. No. OC/SS/JM. Closing date for applications: June 30th. Overseas candidates should only apply if they have a planned visit to the UK within the next two months.

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The starting salary will be in the range of £4,250 to £4,500 per annum plus L.V s and B.U.P.A. But for the right person there will be the facility to progress without having to change jobs again.
Write to Vince Blackall at Comshare Limited, P.O. Box 197, London SW3 5RL. Or phone him on 01-351 4399.



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Our client, the Ministry of P.T.T. Riyadh, urgently requires follows personnel for IBM 3031 computers:

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS £27K P.A.

● COMPUTER OPERATORS £20K P.A. OUNIT SUPERVISORS £20K P.A.

Min 3 yrs. exp. in data processing to include one of the following fields:

(a) Scheduling on I/O control
(b) Job set up or production control
(c) Operation, programming and interface

Above salaries are maximum depending on experience and qualifications. Please ring 01-801-4321, Sheikh-Hasham Overseas Personnel Ltd., 6 Welton Road, London N15 4PP



We are confident of a successful and exciting future. ARE YOU?

Systems Designers Limited needs computer professionals at all levels to work in very nearly every field of computer operation, not only in the UK but also in Europe, the Middle East and the USA. Although a large amount of work is centred around our Camberley, Frimley and Manchester offices there are many long term projects which offer opportunities to see other countries throughout the world.

Our continuing requirement is for staff at all levels. We are looking for final year graduates as well as experienced software and systems professionals. Salaries are negotiable up to £12,000 p.s. according to ability and

Systems Designers controls and encourages the career progression of its staff giving them a wide variety of experience of both project applications

The company runs productivity bonus, insurance and pension schemes and offers assistence with relocation.

Telephone Ann Gregory for an application form and further information about the company or write to:
Bill Hockey, Operations Director, Systems Designers Limited 1 Pembroke Broadway, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3XH Telephone Camberley (0276) 82244



Systems Designers Limited has an unrivalled reputation in modern computer technology as applied to mini and micro computers in real-time environments. This reputation is resulting in a company-wide expansion plan, which offers plenty of opportunity to the right people. We are British, independent, currently 200 strong and confident of a successful,

Our principal work areas are currently

COMMUNICATIONS: Message switching. elex systems, Communications managem

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Your career will be developed with both formal and informal training and by interchange within the department in addition real opportunities are present within the organisation as a whole. You will work in a team developing or supporting one of the

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Ideally you should have experience in one of the following areas:
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-PLAN programming - VME/B or G3 support - JCL or SCL writing

Give your career a new lease of life by telephoning Steve Gardner between 9.30 pm & 7.00 pm, quoting ref: 553, on 01-836 1385 at Moxon Dolphin & Kerby Ltd., 60 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4JB.





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Data Logic's Terminal Systems Division is one of Europe's leading suppliers of intelligent terminals and distributed processing systems. Our users, come from government, industry and commerce. We are engaged in an ambitious expansion programme aimed at more than doubling turnover in the next five years. This will create extremely attractive prospects for career progression.

We require a Training Officer to take responsibility for both customer and internal staff training. He or she will plan and prepare courses on the Division's hardware and software products. The courses will be given in-house and at customer sites throughout the country. The Training Officer will also control demonstration areas and systems at our new headquarters in Central London, now being equipped to the very highest standards.

Candidates should have an aptitude for computing as well as a recognised teaching qualification or relevant training experience. They are likely to be engaged currently in a teaching position in higher education or in a training role with a mainframe or minicomputer manufacturer.

This is a new position and the opportunities will be considerable for an imaginative candidate to influence the Division's future . . . and hence his or her own career.

Data

Write or call quoting reference TS/04: Kathy Martin Data Logic Limited 29 Marylebone Road London NW1 01-486 7288

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Apply your Computing Knowledge to Business Planning

Unilever have an opportunity for an assistant, experienced in computer data control, to join a small learn located at their Blackfriars Head Office, involved with developing and operating mathematical models for Business Planning. The assistant would, after training, assume responsibility for the operation of a group of existing models, and assist in the development of new models or the adaptation of existing ones.

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to lead a small team engaged on the unification of a new computer system involving the use of two PRIME 500 computers in an 8 Mbyte ICL 2976 complex with links to other computers.

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year.
We also seek some part-time lecturers who would be offered 8-month or 1-year contracts at, 18.55 per hour. The sumber and beliefee of appointments made will depend on the area of expertises offered by the application.
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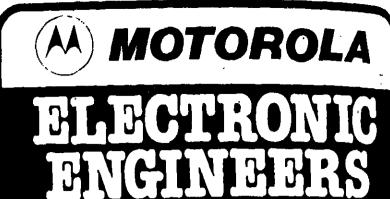
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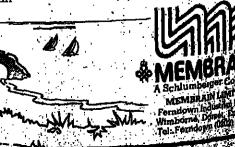
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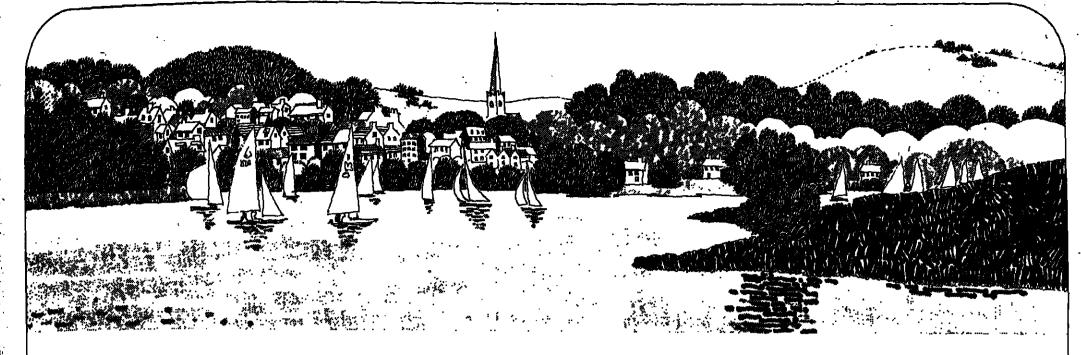
advantage, the typical requirements are education to degree level, preferably in computer science or electronics, and up to one year's experience, ideally in a scientific or technical environment, together with familiarity with languages such as Algol or Coral 66.

We are located in an attractive part of Dorset, with realistic house prices, close to Bournemouth and the New Forest.

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The successful candidates will be experienced in at least one of the following languages: RPG 11, Cobol, Assembler.

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Closing date 19 June 1979.



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The successful applicant will be well qualified in computing or complete science and branching applicant will be well qualified in computing or complete science. science and have commercial computer experience in systems analysis and design.

Salary Scales: (presently under review)

SENIOR LECTURESHIP—£7155-£7962 (BAR) -£9047 LECTURESHIP—£4068-£7167 (BAR) £7189

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Even at Section Leader level, too tight requirement specifications.

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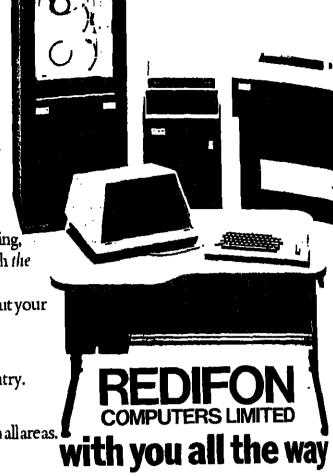
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